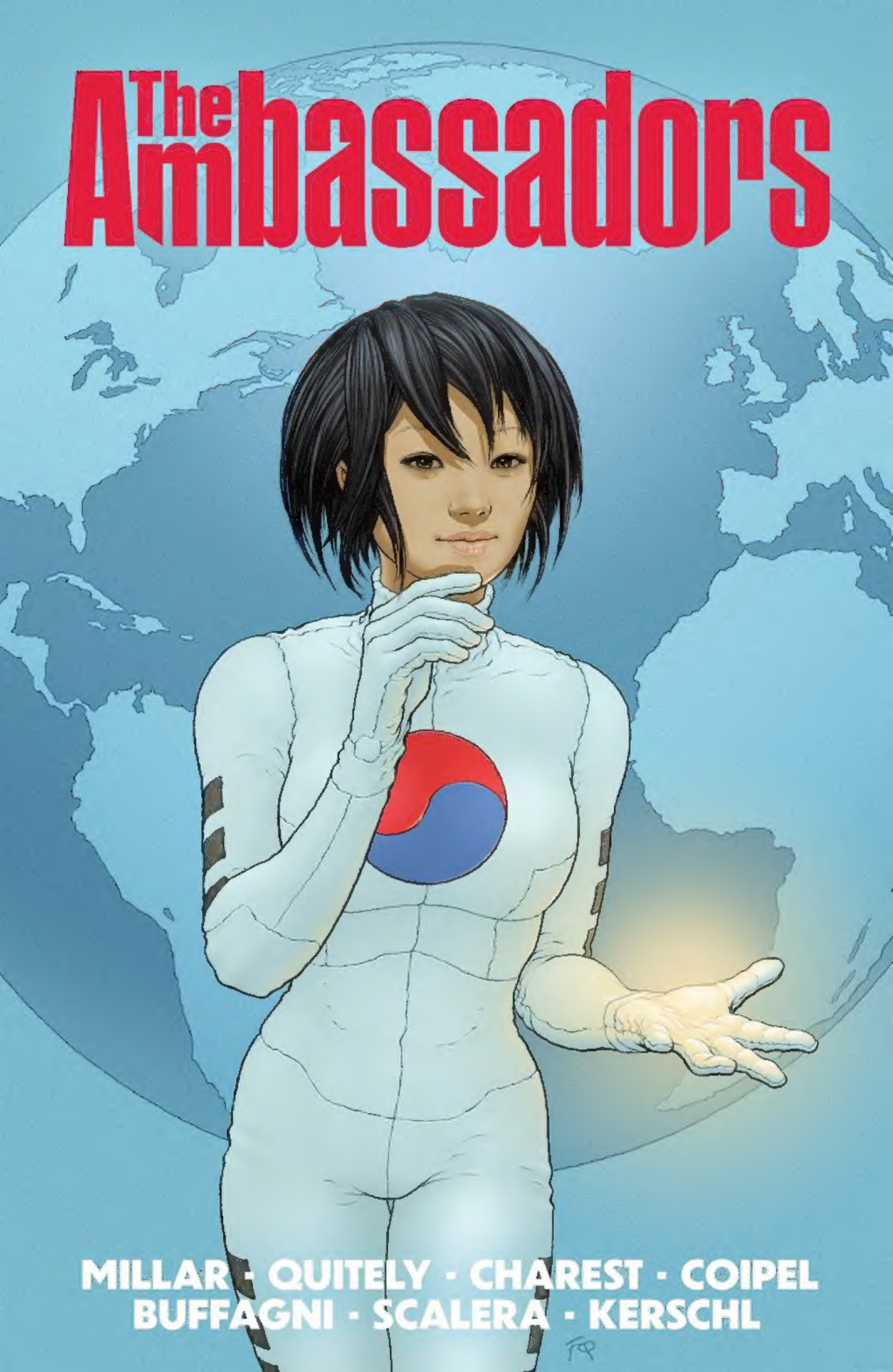
The Ambassadors



MILLAR · QUITELY · CHAREST · COIPEL
BUFFAGNI · SCALERA · KERSCHL

The Ambassadors

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MARK MILLAR
WRITER

CLEM ROBINS
LETTERER

FRANK QUITELY
COVER ARTIST

ISSUE 1
FRANK QUITELY
ARTIST & COLORIST

VINCENT MG DEIGHAN
ASSISTANT COLORIST

ISSUE 2
KARL KERSCHL
ARTIST

MICHELE ASSARASAKORN
COLORIST

ISSUE 3
TRAVIS CHAREST
ARTIST

DAVE STEWART
COLORIST

ISSUE 4
OLIVIER COIPEL
ARTIST

GIOVANNA NIRO
COLORIST

ISSUE 5
MATTEO BUFFAGNI
ARTIST

MICHELE ASSARASAKORN
COLORIST

ISSUE 6
MATTEO SCALERA
ARTIST

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
COLORIST

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Created by
MARK MILLAR
at **NETFLIX**

MELINA MIKULIC
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

SARAH UNWIN
EDITORIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER

LUCY MILLAR
CEO

DESIGN TEAM
BRENDAN McCARTHY
MACK CHATER
OZGUR YILDIRIM
EDDIE THORNTON

ONE

MEXICO, 1986:

REFRESCO

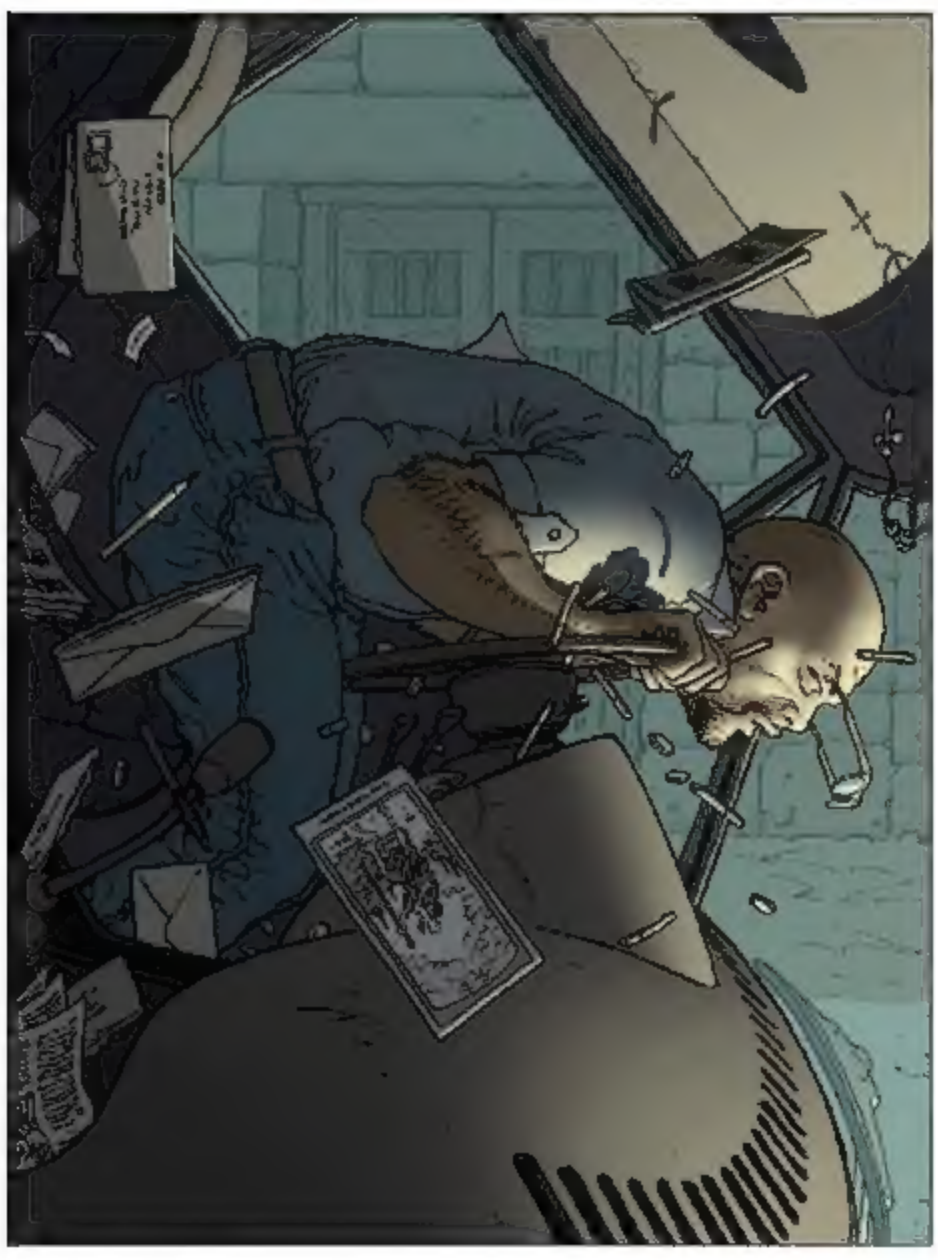
HEY, PEDRO. YOU WANT TO CHECK THE **BACK DOORS**? I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I **LOCKED** THEM OR NOT.

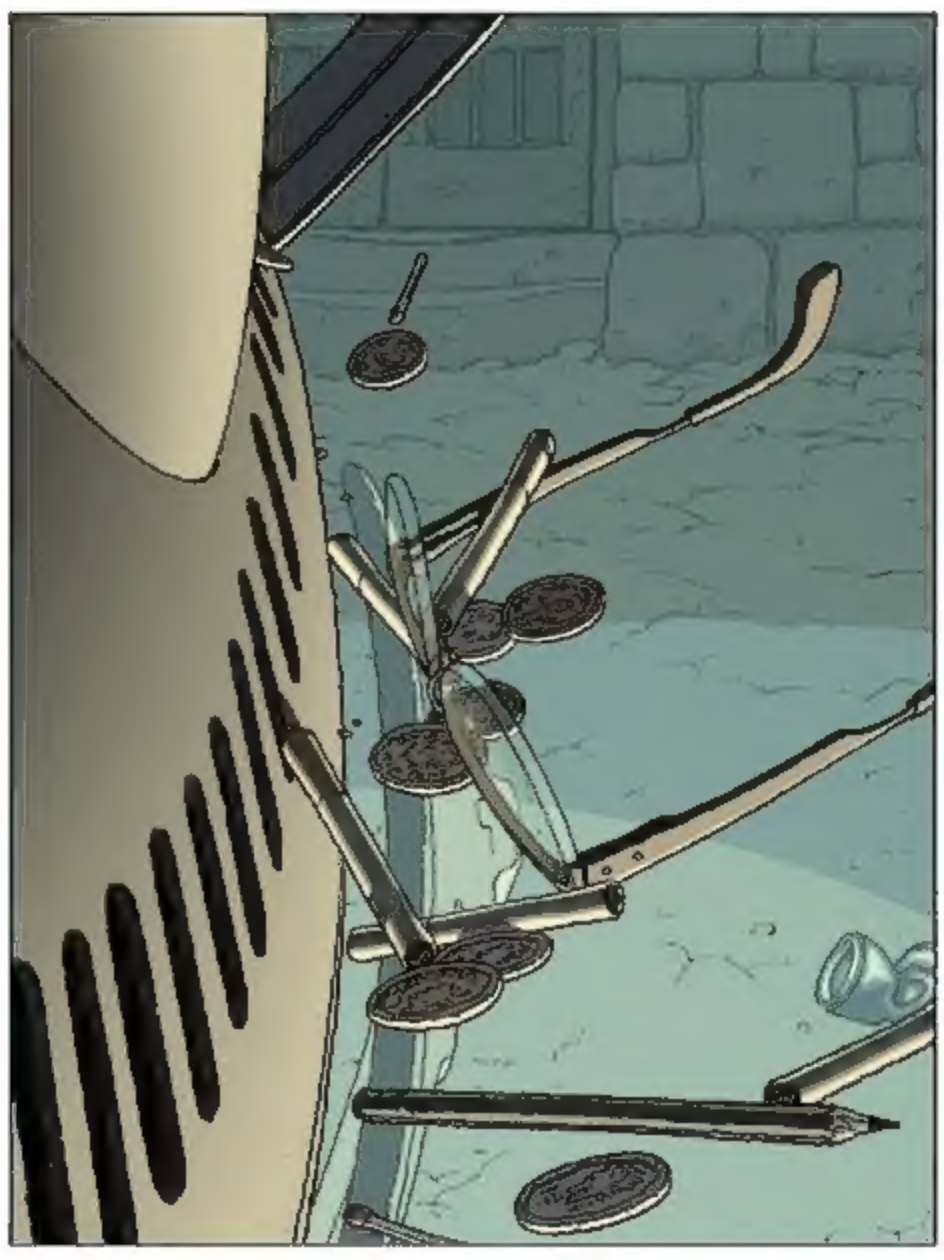
SHIT!
REFRESCO

REFRESCO
>GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG...?

>...GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG!

PEDRO! C'MERE. YOU GOTTA SEE THIS...





SOUVENIR

J-JESUS!

DON'T WORRY, SIR! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS FROM HERE!

YOUR FRIENDS HAVE MISSED YOU BACK IN SCOTLAND, JAMIE. THEY'RE SCARED YOU'RE HURT OR MAYBE EVEN WORSE.

I'VE GOT A BAG OF SKITTLES HERE, BUT I'M ONLY GOING TO SHARE THEM IF YOU PUT THE TRUCK DOWN NICE AND GENTLY.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET BACK IN YOUR BIG ORANGE PEN AND WE'LL PLAY YOU YOUR FAVORITE SIMPLE MINDS ALBUM?

SPECIAL AGENT ABRAHAM TOMES

DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS

DO NOT HARM

OH, AYE? SPARKLE IN THE RAIN OR NEW GOLD DREAM?

ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING ONCE UPON A TIME.

GOOD MAN.

AH WIZ JUST TESTING YE.

ANTARCTICA, THIS MORNING.

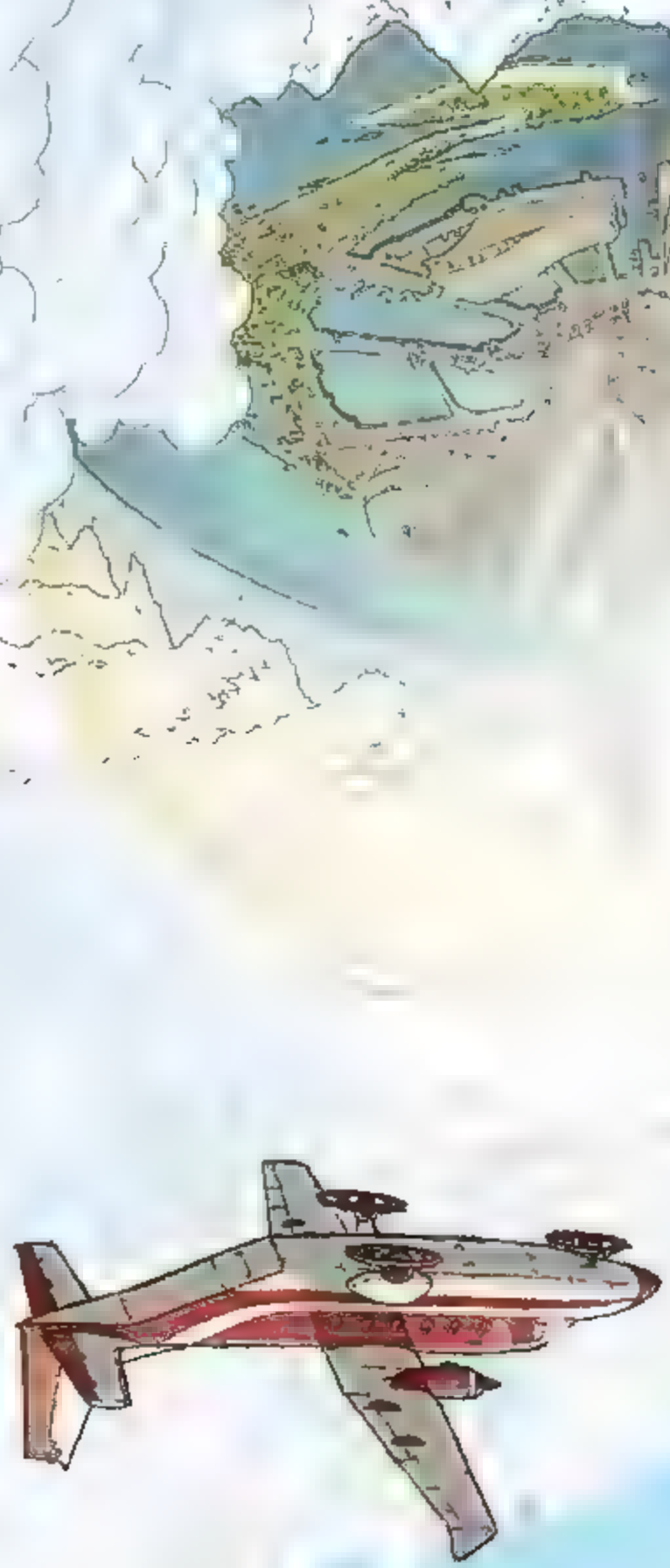
I **SAW** IT! I'M **TELLING** YOU! TEN MILES ACROSS OR MAYBE EVEN **BIGGER!**

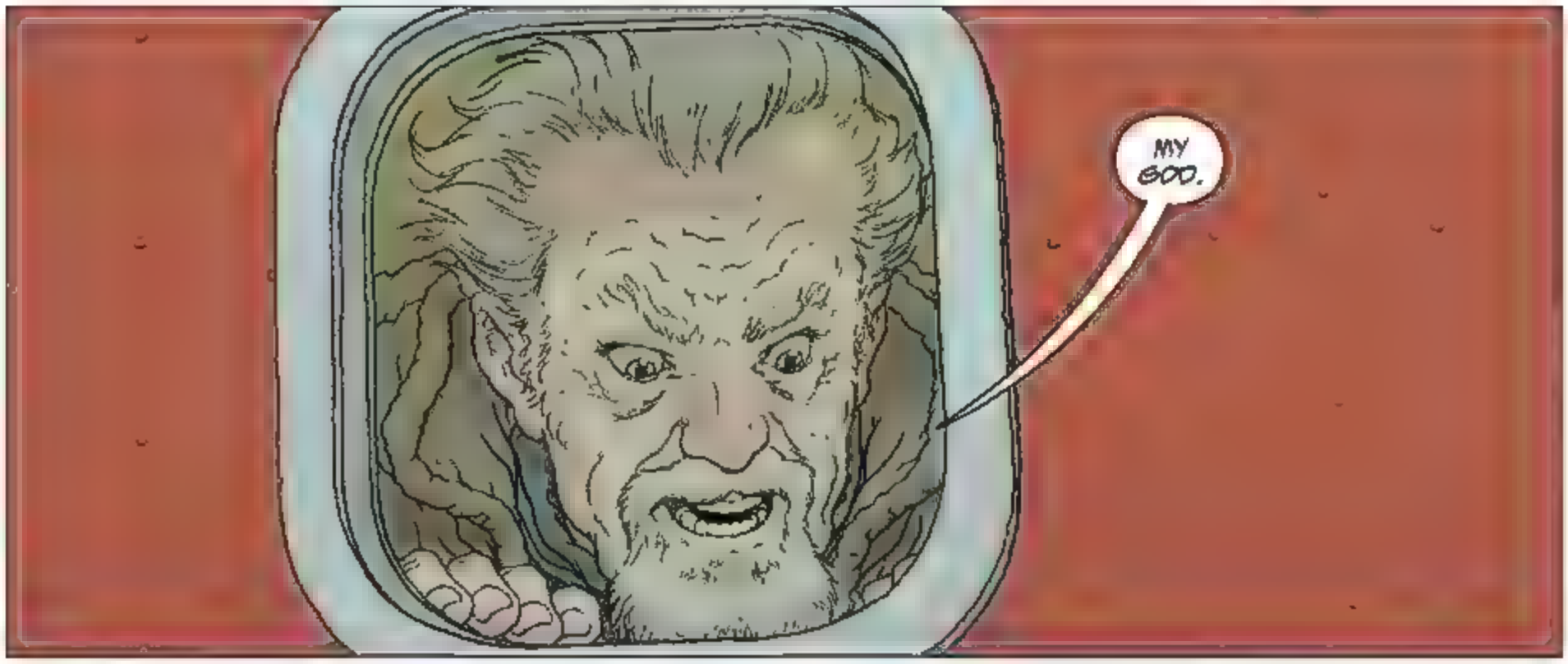
IT LOOKED LIKE A CITY WITH BUILDINGS AND TREES, THEN IT ALL DISAPPEARED WHEN THE ICE HIT THE WINDOW!

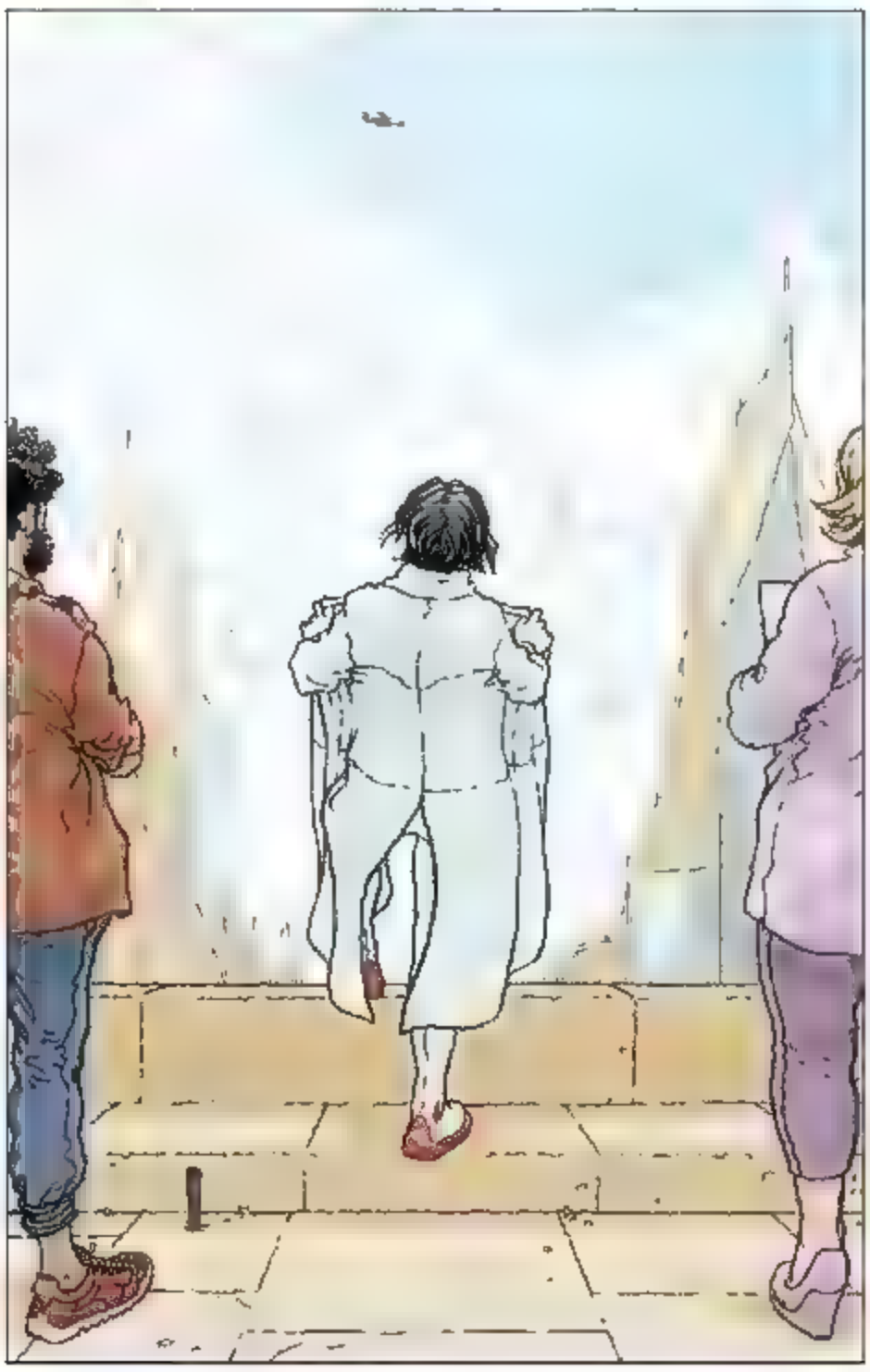
WE CAN CIRCLE BACK AND TAKE ANOTHER LOOK, BUT IT'S A WASTE OF TIME, JOHANN. THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE FOR A **THOUSAND MILES.**

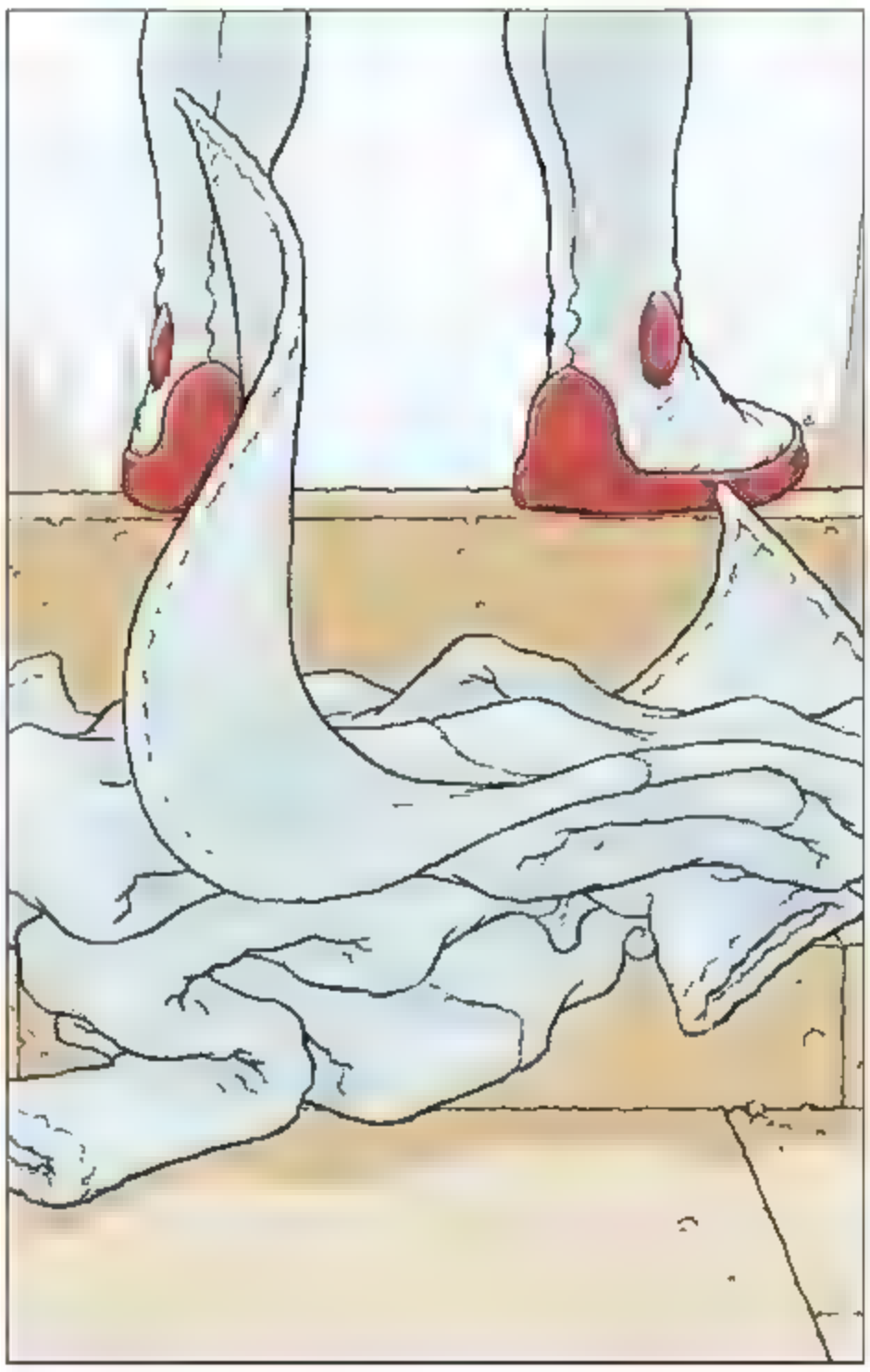
MAYBE IT'S A **GOVERNMENT** FACILITY. THE CHINESE AND THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN BUYING UP **TUNDRA.** MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING THEY JUST HAVEN'T **TOLD** US ABOUT.

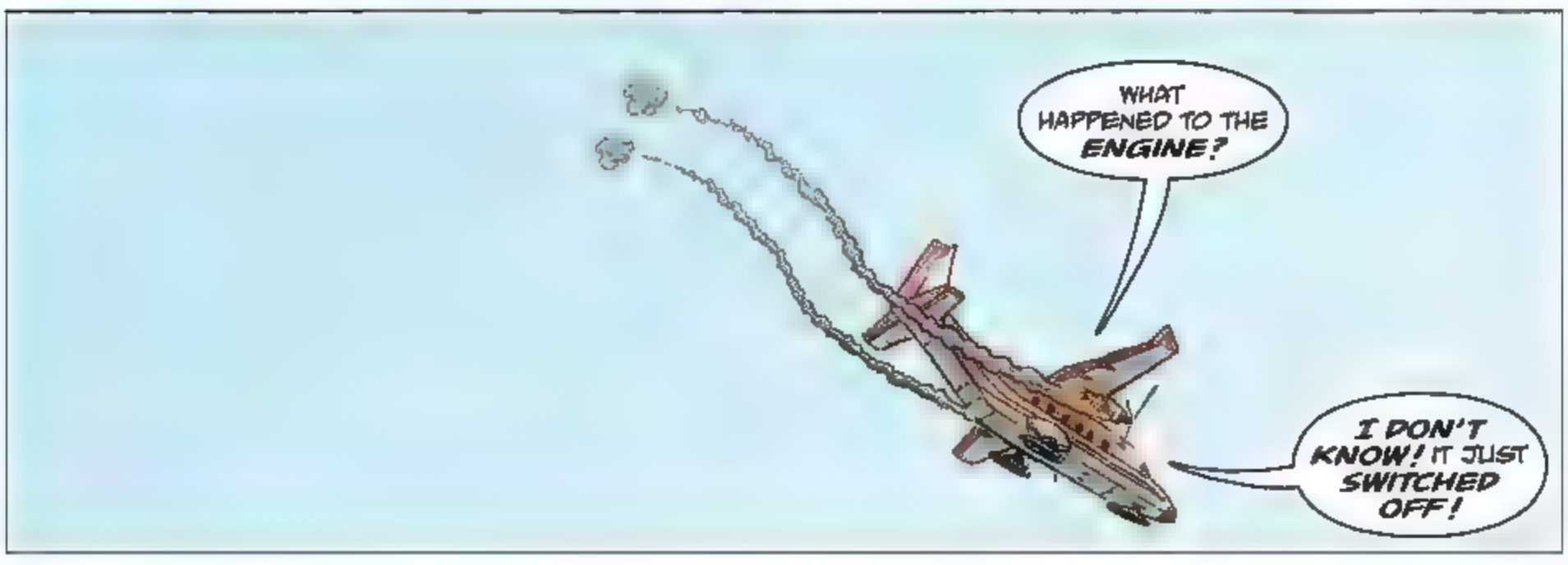
YOU **SEE** ANYTHING?




MY GOD.

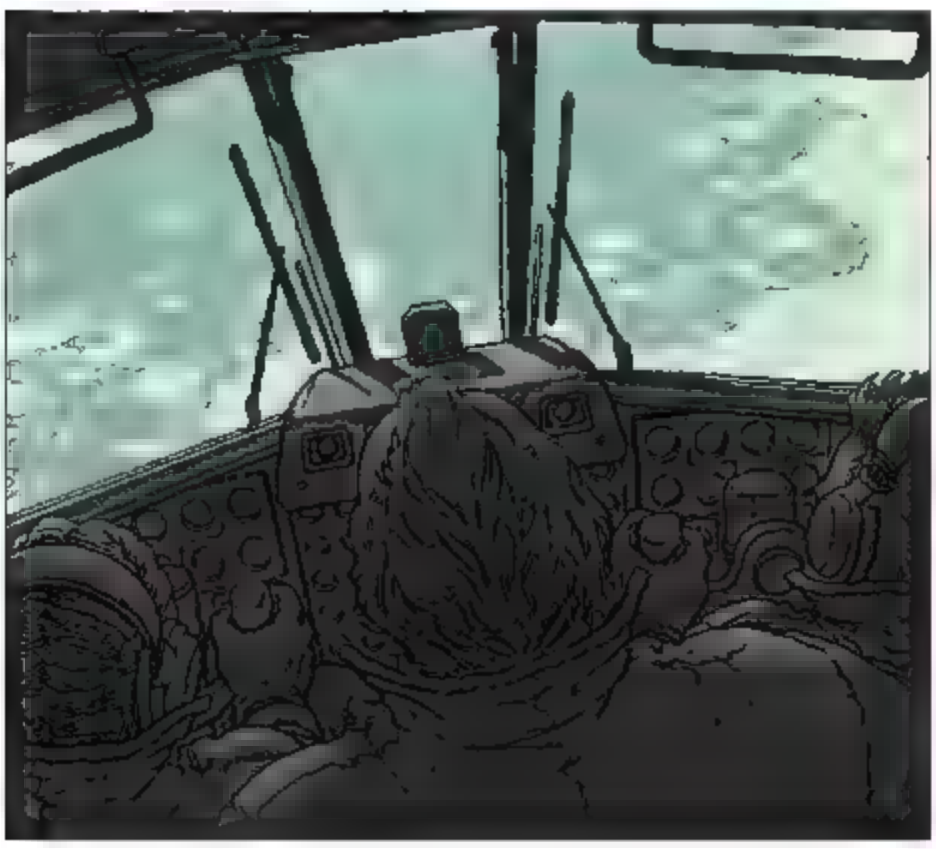





WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ENGINE?
I DON'T KNOW! IT JUST SWITCHED OFF!

LARS!
I'M TRYING!
I'M TRYING!

SOMETHING ELSE IS WORKING THE CONTROLS!



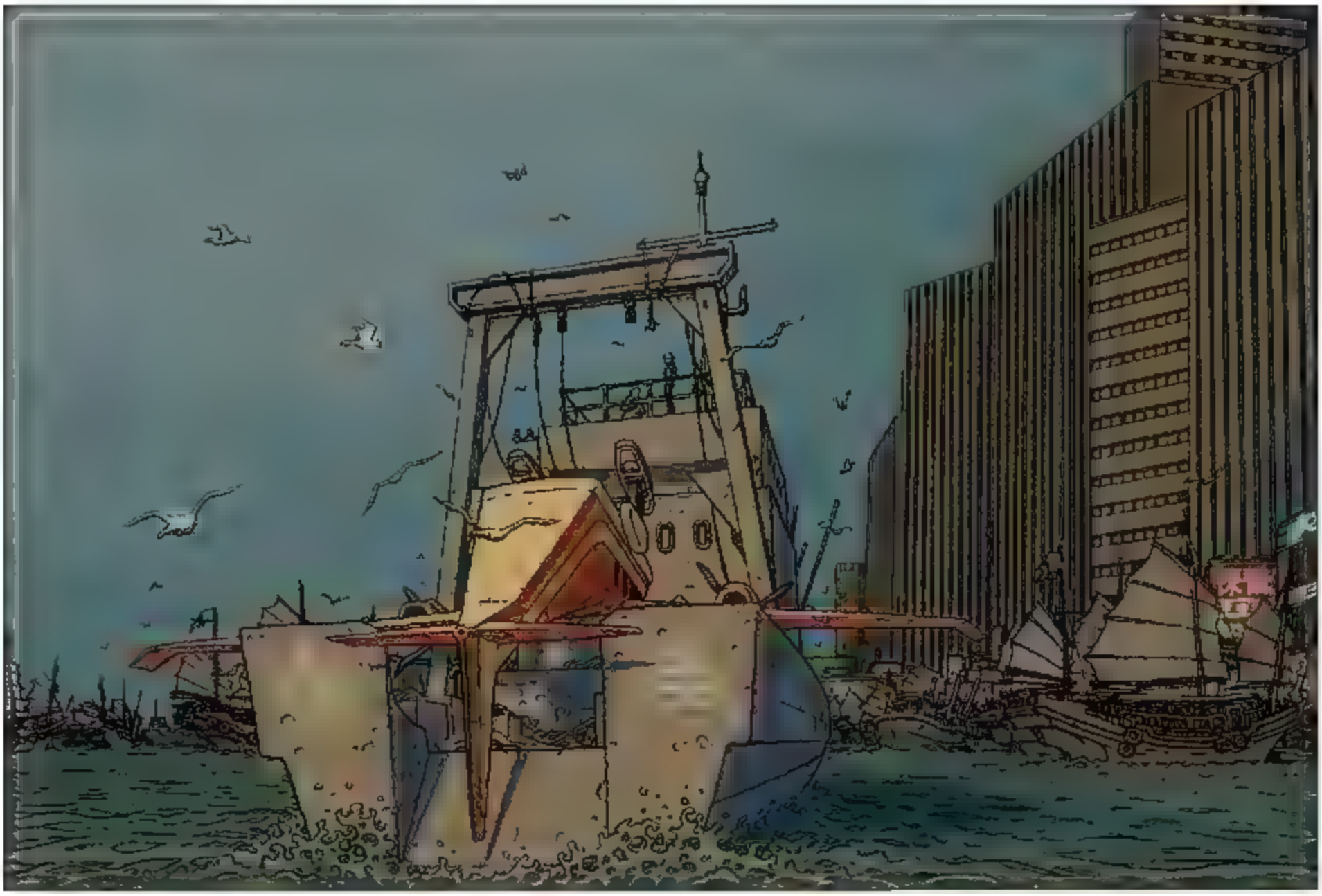
WH-WHERE **AM I**? WH-WHO **ARE** YOU PEOPLE?

TAKE IT **EASY**, MAN. THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN LOOKING AFTER US **REALLY WELL.**

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE'RE ON A SLOW BOAT TO **CHINA.**

I DON'T **UNDER-STAND.** WHAT HAPPENED TO THE **PLANE?**

YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING **WEIRD?**



WHAT HAPPENED?
WE DON'T KNOW.

IT'S LIKE IT'S ALL THERE ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE, BUT SOMEBODY RECORDED OVER IT.

WASHINGTON D.C.:

WHO *IS* THIS GUY?

WE NEVER ACTUALLY ***AGREED*** ON A NAME. IT'S HARDER THAN YOU THINK TO COME UP WITH A GOOD ONE; BUT THE ACTOR WE HIRED WAS CALLED ***MITCH JANSEN*** AND HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ***MORE PERFECT.***

FOR *WHAT?*

A HIGH-RISK ***PROPAGANDA EXERCISE*** TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF ***THE SOVIETS.***

"DURING THE COLD WAR, THE RACE WAS ON TO **CREATE A SUPERMAN,** AND SINCE NEITHER SIDE WAS HAVING LUCK, WE TRIED OUR HAND AT **FAKING IT** FOR A WHILE.

"WE USED **ACTORS** AND **SPECIAL EFFECTS** WITH A PLAN TO RUN IT ON THE **NEWS** EVERY NIGHT, BUT IT NEVER LOOKED **ESPECIALLY CONVINCING** AND THE PROJECT GOT BENCHED IN NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE.

"NO PRESIDENT SINCE **LBJ** HAS SEEN THE FOOTAGE YOU'RE LOOKING AT AND NOBODY SINCE **BUSH SENIOR** HAS BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE **SISTER PROGRAMS...**

"THE **BONZO** INITIATIVE. THE **DRUG TRIALS.** THE RACE TO FIND THE **SUPER-GENOME** UNTIL REAGAN AND GORBACHEV SIGNED THEIR SECRET **TEST-BAN TREATY** IN **REYKJAVIK."**

THE BONZO PROGRAM WAS NAMED AFTER PRESIDENT REAGAN'S OLD MOVIE **CO-STAR.**

BEDTIME FOR **BONZO.** I **LOVED** THOSE PICTURES.

WHAT **HAPPENED** TO THAT LITTLE BOY? I KNOW HIS EVOLUTION WAS MESSED WITH INTO SOMETHING **POST-HUMAN.** WAS IT A **HEART ATTACK?**

RADIATION POISONING. THE ONLY SUCCESS WE EVER HAD AND HE DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIS EIGHTH BIRTHDAY.

WHAT ABOUT THE ACTOR IN THE OLD SUPERHERO COSTUME?

WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS TO ACTORS IN BLACK OPS, UNFORTUNATELY.

SO WHY RE-OPEN THESE OLD FILES NOW? WHY ARE WE EVEN HAVING THIS CONVERSATION?

BECAUSE A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL HAS JUST SUCCEEDED WHERE THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS HAVE FAILED FOR DECADES.

SOMEONE HAS CREATED A REAL-LIFE SUPERMAN AND OUR INTELLIGENCE TELLS US THEY'RE ABOUT TO GO PUBLIC.

IS THIS A *JOKE?*

UNFORTUNATELY ***NOT.*** WE UNDERSTAND THE EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN A SECRET ***ANTARCTIC CITY*** AND ARE FINANCED BY A ***BILLIONAIRE*** WE'RE TRYING TO ***IDENTIFY.***

SURELY THIS IS ***EXCELLENT*** NEWS? CAN'T WE JUST BRING HIM INTO THE FOLD AND ***CO-OPT*** HIS ***TECHNOLOGY?***

THIS GUY'S ***DONE US A FAVOR*** IF HE'S BRINGING AMERICA'S DEFENSE PROGRAM INTO THE ***TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.***

WELL, FIRST OF ALL HE IS A ***SHE,*** SIR...

...AND SECONDLY, SHE ISN'T ***AMERICAN.***

THE NEW DAWN BEGINS.

THE EMBASSY, SOUTH KOREA;

PURPOSE AS YET UNKNOWN:

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US **WHO BUILT** THIS PLACE, OKSANA.

ALL IN **GOOD TIME,** SIR. MY EMPLOYER INSISTS ON **ABSOLUTE DISCRETION** AND SHE'D HOBBLE MY **GOOD** LEG IF I LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.

THIS BETTER NOT JUST BE ANOTHER GODDAMN **CELLPHONE.**

YOU HAVE MY WORD, THIS IS **DEFINITELY** WORTH THE **TRIP.** NOW IF YOU'D ALL PLEASE **TAKE YOUR SEATS...**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE THE CO-FOUNDER OF **CHUNG SOLUTIONS,** THE WORLD'S LEADING AUTHORITY ON BIO-ENGINEERING AND **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE...**

...SCIENTIST, TEACHER, DISRUPTOR AND **STAR PUPIL** OF **SEOUL SCIENCE; DOCTOR CHOON-HE CHUNG** WITH THE **ANNOUNCEMENT** OF **HER CAREER...**

ISN'T DOCTOR CHUNG IN PRISON FOR **FRAUD?**

CH

I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS THE *NO-SHOW.*

ACTUALLY, I JUST PREFER TO MAKE AN *ENTRANCE,* SIR.

I'M AFRAID THE MOVIES HAD IT **WRONG.** THE SUPERHERO DOESN'T START IN **NEW YORK** OR **GOTHAM CITY.** IT STARTS OUT HERE ON THE **OTHER** SIDE OF THE WORLD.

JESUS H. CHRIST!

WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE **CALM DOWN?** NOBODY'S IN **DANGER.** I'VE SPENT MY **LIFE** TRYING TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN AND YOU'RE REALLY **TAKING THE SHINE** OFF IT.

HOW ARE YOU **DOING** THIS? IS THIS A **TRICK?**

NO, I REALLY DO HAVE ACCESS TO A DATA BANK OF **SUPER POWERS,** AND I'VE BEEN USING THEM IN **SECRET** THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.

I RECORDED MY EXPLOITS ON A **SUIT-CAM** I WAS WEARING AND I'M MENTALLY EMAILING SOME OF THE HIGH-LIGHTS UNDER THE SUBJECT HEADING **CODENAME KOREA.**

A-AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN **JAIL?**

TECHNICALLY, I **AM** IN JAIL. THIS BODY IS JUST AN **UPGRADE** I DESIGNED TO OPERATE IN THE **OUTSIDE WORLD...**

MY **ORIGINAL** BODY IS IN CHEONGJU WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, BUT BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE HERE I'LL HAVE DOWNLOADED EVERYTHING INTO CHOON-HE 2.0.

YOU SEE, MY **EX-HUSBAND** AND I DEVOTED OUR LIVES TO CREATING **POST-HUMAN ALTERNATIVES.** I WANTED TO BRING A LITTLE **LIGHT** TO THE WORLD. HE JUST WANTED TO SELL IT TO **GOVERNMENTS** AND THE **SUPER RICH.**

FOR JIN-SUNG, IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT **MAKING MONEY,** AND THAT'S WHY HE **FRAMED** ME AND DISAPPEARED WITH MY **PAPERS.**

SADLY FOR HIM, HIS RESEARCH **STALLED** AND **I'M** THE ONE WHO HAD THE BREAKTHROUGH IN THE END.

SHE'S BROADCASTING FROM **SOLITARY!** GET DOWN THERE **NOW!**

CAN I JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR HER **TREMENDOUS LOYALTY** AS I REBUILT MY FORTUNE FROM PRISON?

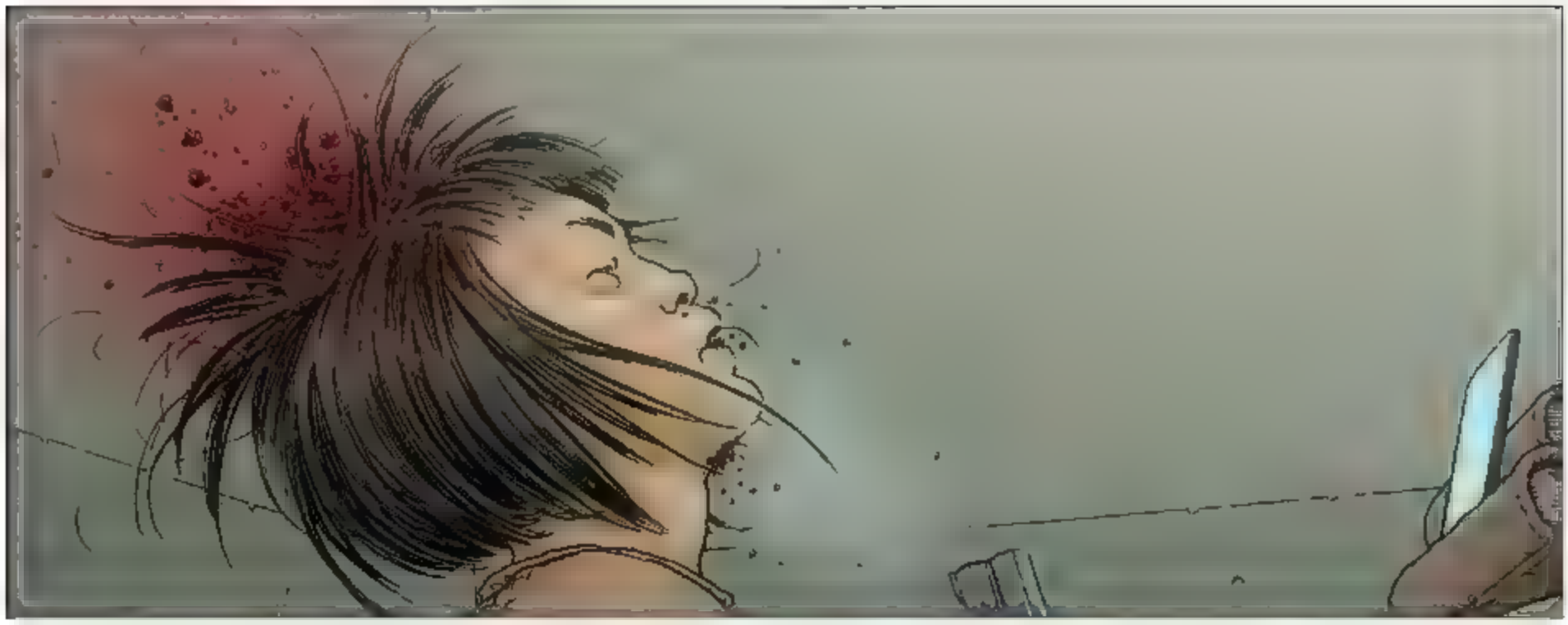
OKSANA PETROV FOLLOWED EVERY **INSTRUCTION** AND EVERYTHING YOU SEE HERE IS DOWN TO HER **METICULOUS PLANNING.**

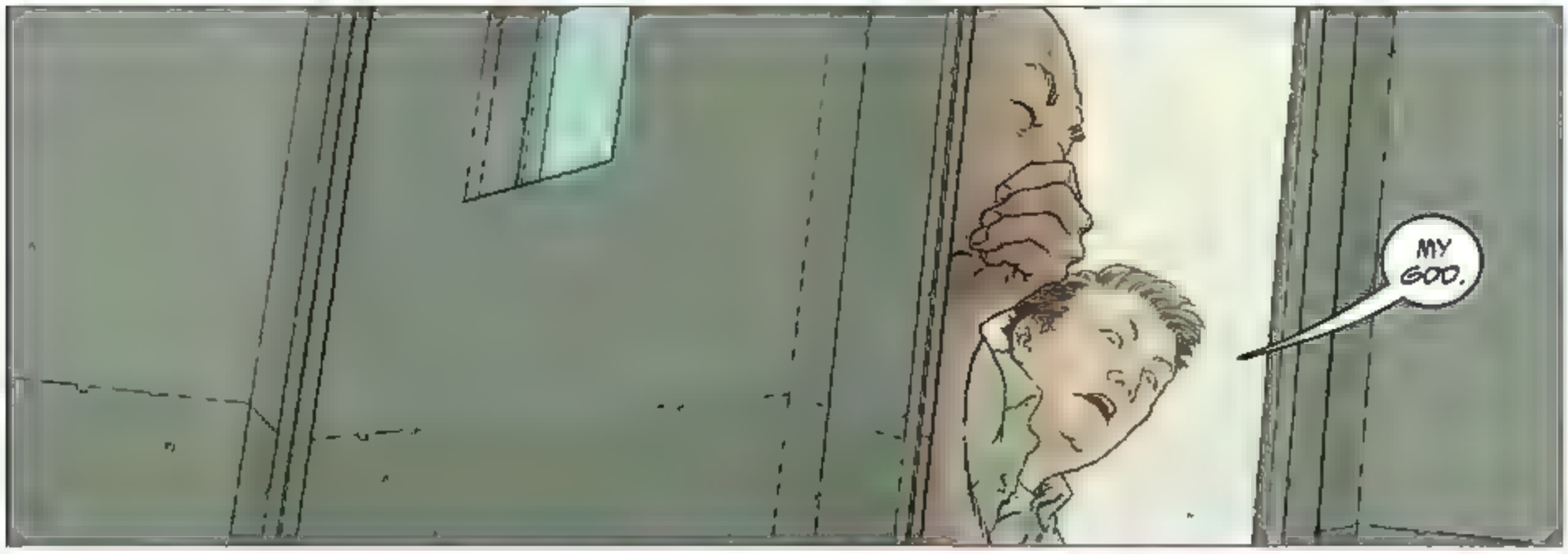
SAN FRANCISCO:

I **DID** IT, JIN. I FINALLY **CRACKED** IT, AND AS WEIRD AS IT FEELS TO GIVE UP MY OLD BODY, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THE EIGHTY-YEAR SENTENCE YOUR TERRIBLE LIES **CONDEMNED** ME TO.

THE OLD ME WAS GOING TO **ROT IN JAIL,** BUT THE NEW CHOON-HE IS GOING TO PUT YOUR COMPANY IN THE **GROUND.**

YOU DON'T FUCK WITH THE WORLD'S SMARTEST WOMAN AND WALK AWAY WITH YOUR **BALLS** INTACT.

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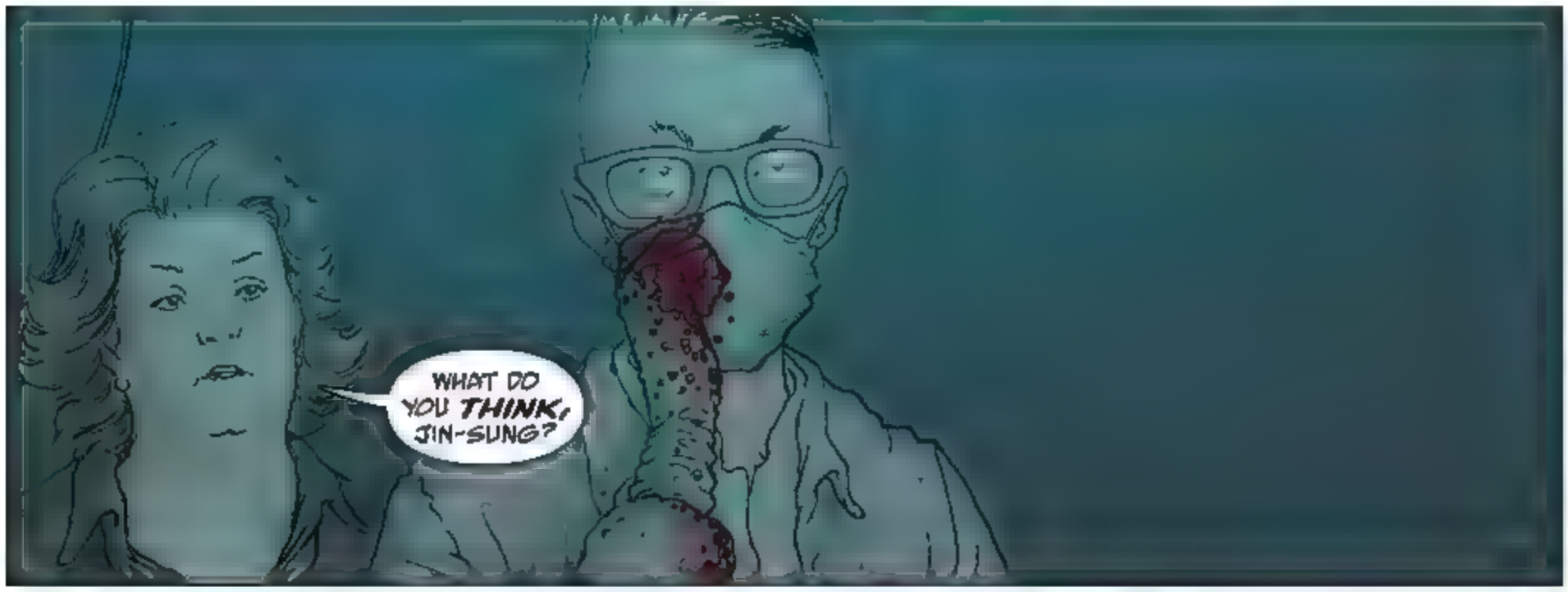
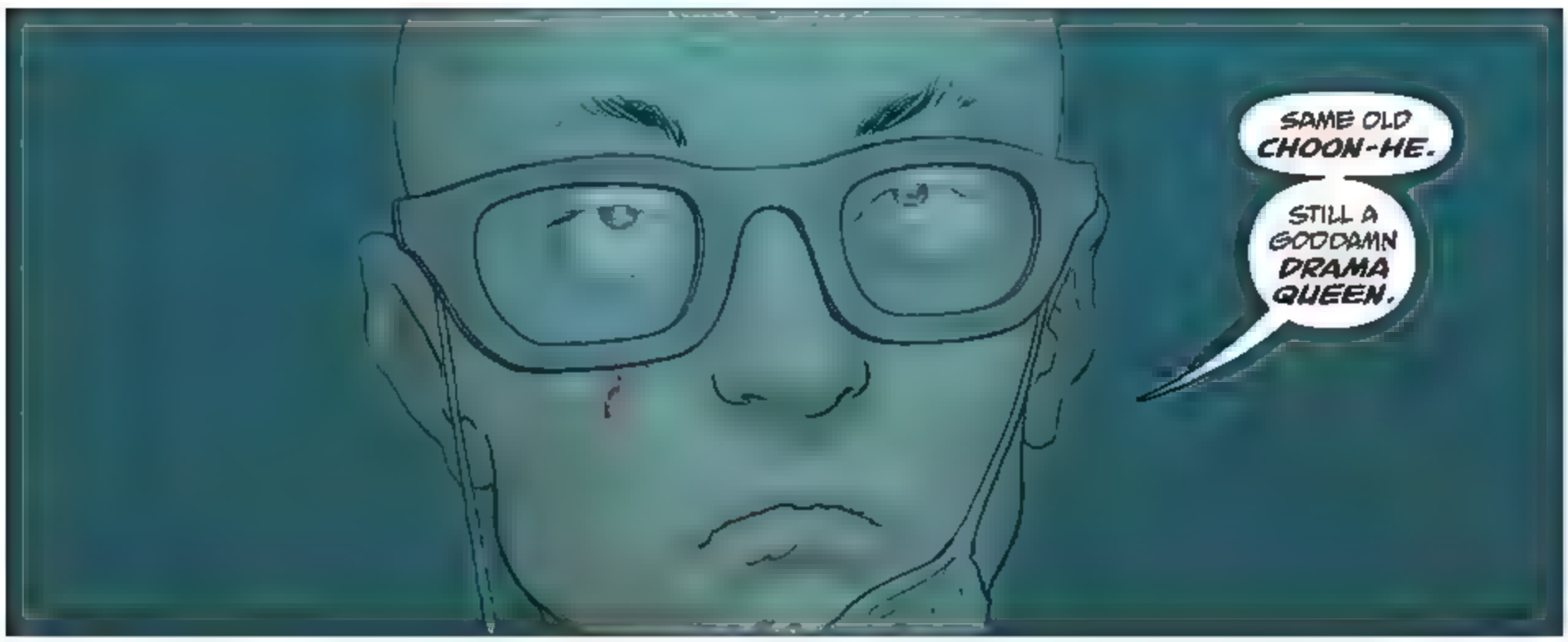

WHAT DO YOU THINK, JIN-SUNG?


SAME OLD CHOON-HE.
STILL A GODDAMN DRAMA QUEEN.

NOW BEFORE THIS GOES ALL **PARK CHAN-WOOK**, ALLOW ME TO **LIGHTEN THE MOOD.** BECAUSE I'M NOT JUST HERE TO EXACT MY REVENGE. I'M HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT A **COMPETITION** I'M LAUNCHING.

MY **EX** WANTED TO SELL POWERS TO THE **HIGHEST BIDDER.** I WANT TO GIVE THEM TO THE **MOST DESERVING** AND ASK THEM TO JOIN ME IN A **RESCUE SQUAD** I'M PUTTING TOGETHER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A **BILLIONAIRE** TO JOIN OUR TEAM. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LOOK GOOD IN **LYCRA.**

I JUST WANT TO FIND THE MOST **ALTRUISTIC PEOPLE** TO BE **AMBASSADORS** FOR EACH OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT BRITISH **CHILDREN'S CHARACTER** THAT **FETISHIZED OVER-CONSUMPTION?**

WILLY **WONKA,** CHOON-HE.

JUST THINK OF ME AS **WILLIAM WONKA,** BUT THE WINNERS ALL GET **SUPER POWERS** INSTEAD OF **SUGARY SNACKS.**

THE WHITE HOUSE:

SO LET ME GET THIS **STRAIGHT:** SHE ISN'T GIVING THIS TO THE **MILITARY?** SHE ISN'T TRYING TO **MAKE MONEY?** YOU ONLY HAVE TO BE **NICE?**

THAT'S ABOUT THE **SIZE** OF IT, SIR.

TERRIFYING.

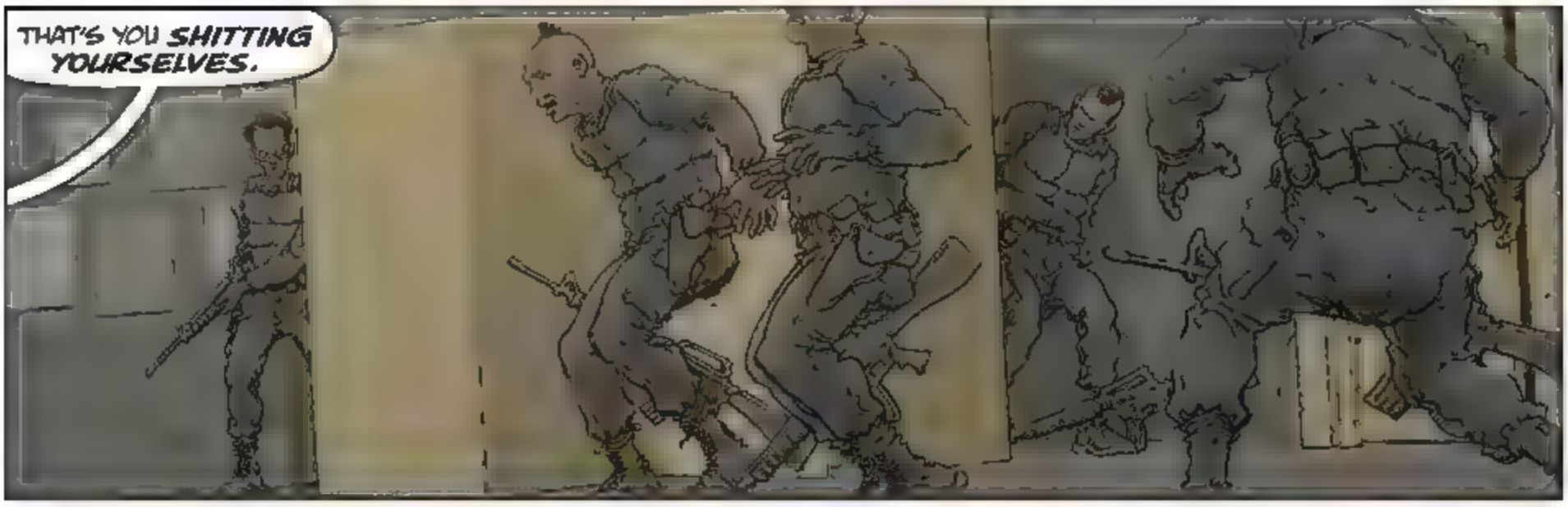
SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA:

SO WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS **CODENAME KOREA**, MATE? YOU THINK IT'S A **HOAX** OR SHOULD OL' MARCUS BE **VOLUNTEERING** TO **SIGN UP?**

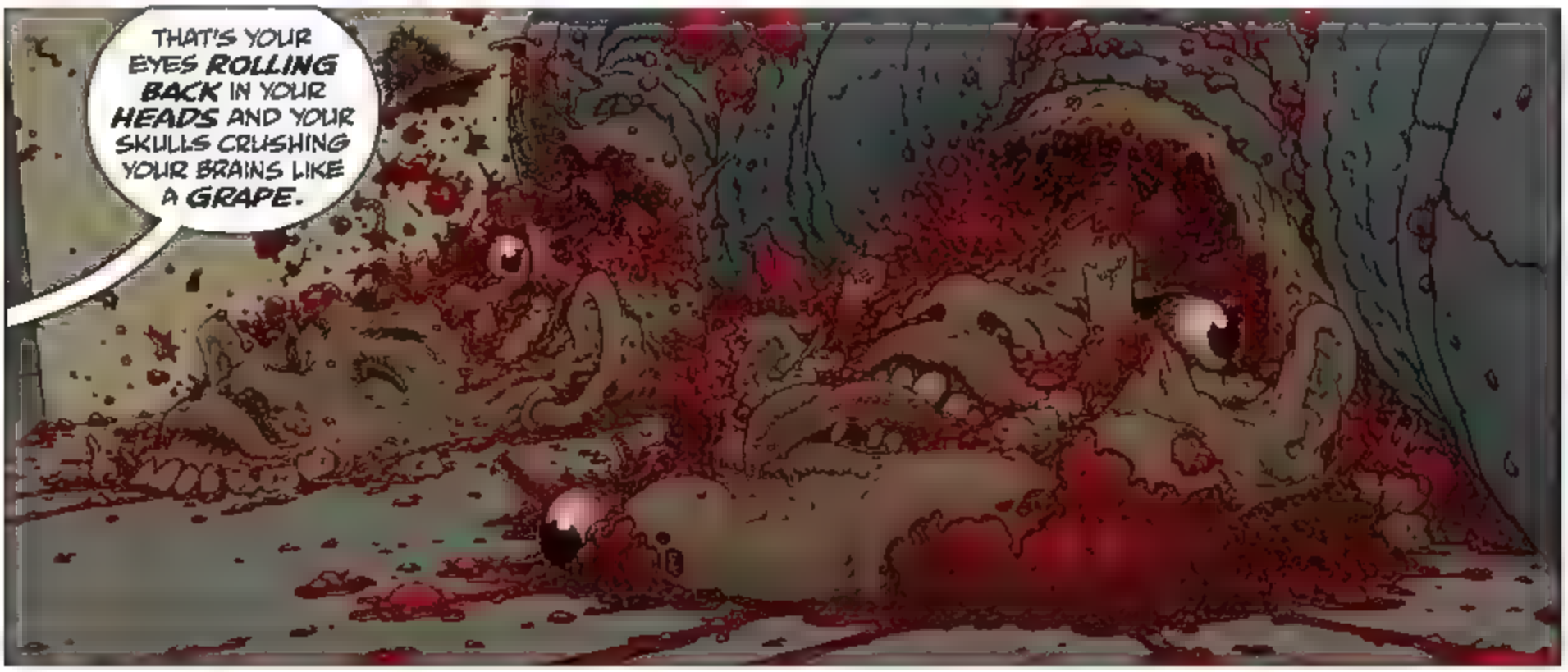
OH, IT'S FOR **REAL**, ALL RIGHT. THIS HAS BEEN COMING A LONG, LONG TIME. THE SUPERHEROES AREN'T JUST IN THESE **COMIC BOOKS** ANYMORE, PAL. THEY'RE LIVING AMONG US **RIGHT UNDER** OUR **NOSES.**

I CAN **SEE** YOU BACK THERE. I DON'T EVEN NEED TO **TURN AROUND.** I CAN SEE YOU ALL SNEAKING IN WHILE I'M TALKING AND I'VE **ALREADY DISABLED** THE TRIGGERS ON YOUR **RIFLES.**

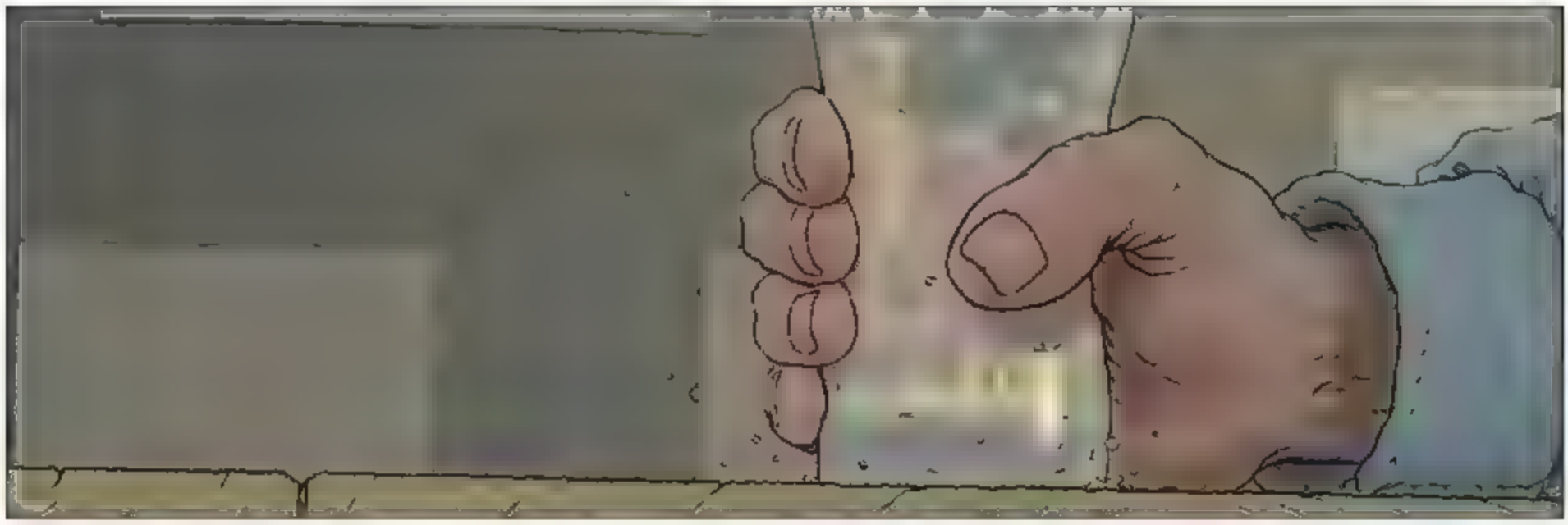
HUH?

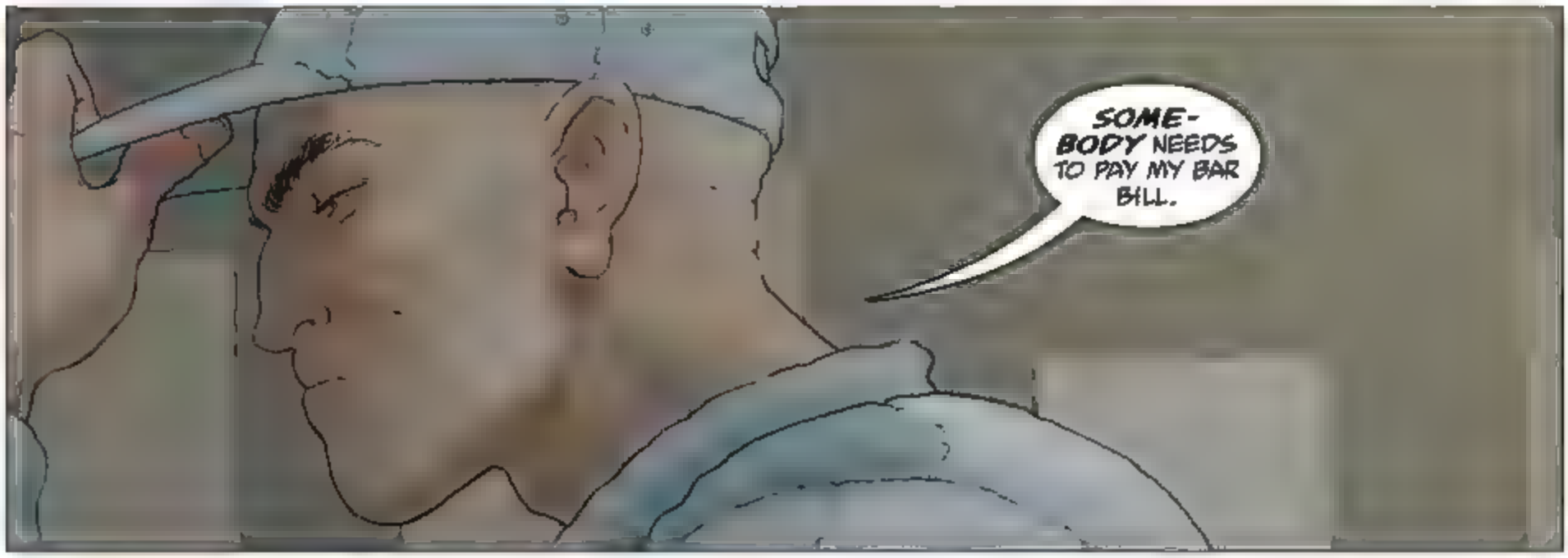

THAT'S YOU SHITTING YOURSELVES.

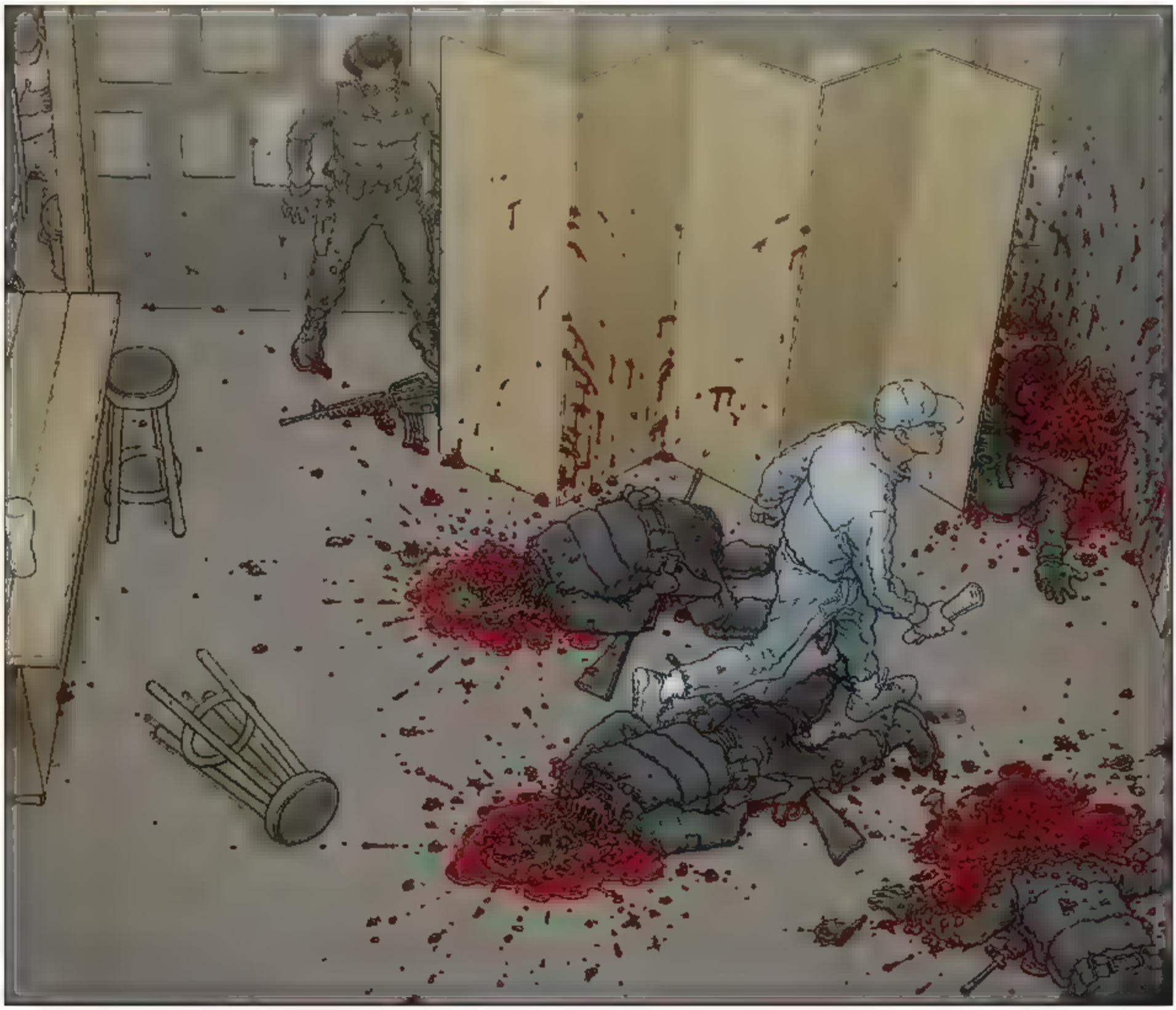
THAT'S YOUR COCKS TURNING INSIDE OUT.


THAT'S YOUR EYES ROLLING BACK IN YOUR HEADS AND YOUR SKULLS CRUSHING YOUR BRAINS LIKE A GRAPE.

WH-WHY DID YOU LET ME LIVE?




SOME-
BODY NEEDS
TO PAY MY BAR
BILL.



TWO

DELHI, INDIA.

GITA'S **NEVER** GOING OUT WITH ME, JAI. SHE LOOKS LIKE **SHRADDHA KAPOOR** AND MANAGES A **THRIVING BUSINESS.** I'M JUST A GUY FROM THE **PHONE STORE,** MAN.

WE ALL JUST WORK IN THE **MALL,** BINNU. BESIDES, YOU'LL BE MUGGING FOR YOUR **EXAMS** SOON AND MISTER YARADKAR SAID YOU COULD BE **ASSISTANT MANAGER** OF THAT STORE IN TWO YEARS' TIME.

TWO YEARS' TIME SHE'LL BE MARRIED TO THE DUDE FROM **BIG BAZAAR** AND LIVING IN **JOR BAGH.** I NEED A **BOLT** FROM THE **BLUE.** SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME **AWESOME.**

DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD WALK PAST HER STORE ONE MORE TIME AND SEE IF I CAN **CATCH HER EYE?**

YEAH, BECAUSE **THAT'S** BEEN WORKING WELL FOR YOU SO FAR. JUST ASK HER OUT TO A **MOVIE,** DUDE. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN **HAPPEN?**

WHAT THE HELL?

BRAK BRAK BR

THAT'S RIGHT, BASTARDS! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

I'VE NO IDEA! THEY'RE UPSTAIRS TOO! WE NEED TO GET OUT THE BACK!

SHIT!!

BOOM

OH NO. THEY GOT GITA!

WHAT?

DROP YOUR WEAPONS!

YOU THINK WE'RE SCARED TO DIE? THESE AREN'T HOSTAGES. THEY'RE SHIELDS!

WE'RE ALL OVER DELHI, MAN! IN YOUR SCHOOLS, YOUR HOSPITALS, YOUR HOTELS AND DEPARTMENT STORES!

TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BABRI MASJID, BUT THIS IS FOR KASHMIR AND ALL THE INNOCENTS!

KRAK

KRAK

PLEASE! LET GITA GO! TAKE ME INSTEAD!

BINNU!

WHAT?

SHE'S A GOOD PERSON FROM A GOOD FAMILY! SHE'S GOT A FUTURE AND I'M JUST A CHUTIYA FROM THE PHONE STORE, MAN!

DON'T! THEY'LL KILL YOU!

SERIOUSLY? YOU WANT TO TRADE PLACES WITH THIS GIRL?

BY GOD! I REALLY DO!

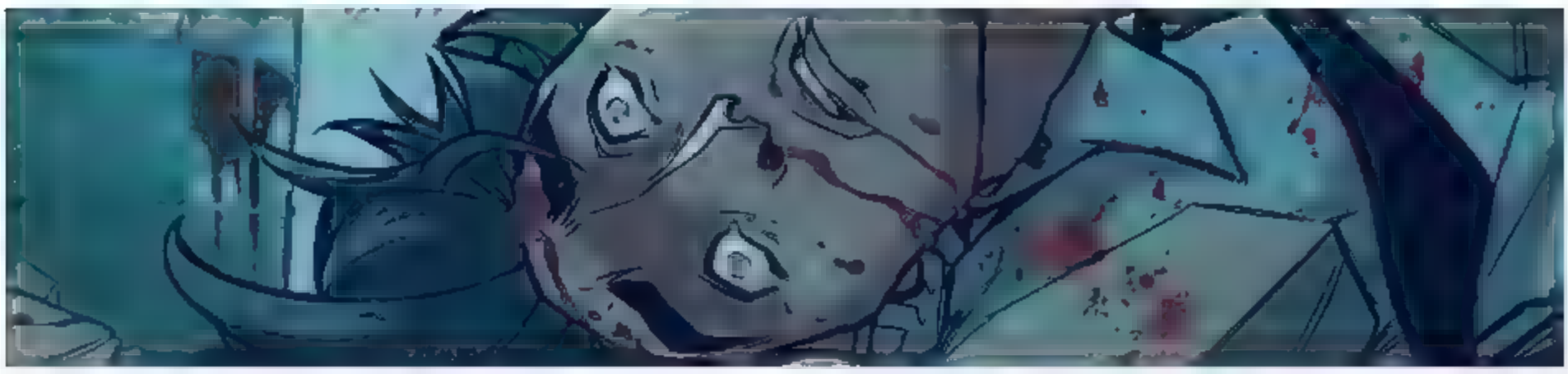
OKAY, MISTER HERO. **YOUR CALL.** BUT TRY ANYTHING CLEVER AND WE'LL KILL YOU **BOTH.** DO YOU **UNDERSTAND?**

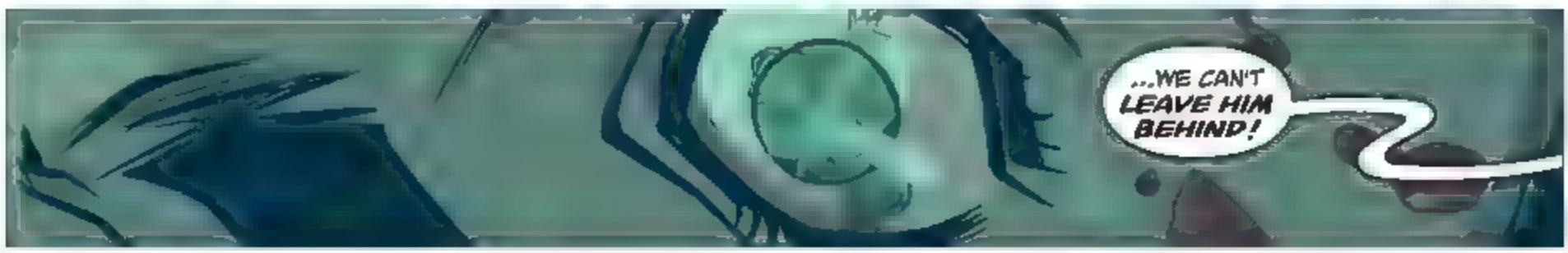
NOTHING **STUPID.** YOU HAVE MY **WORD...**

NO!!

FUCKING **IDIOT!** NOW FINISH THE **WOMEN** AND **MOVE UPSTAIRS,** HUH?

OH MY GOD! THEY SHOT THAT GUY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU NEED TO GO! WE CAN SHOW YOU A SAFE WAY OUT!
NO! YOU HAVE TO CALL AN AMBULANCE...




...WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM BEHIND!

BASE-CONTROL, ANTARCTICA:

HOW MANY APPLICANTS TO BE AMBASSADORS **SO FAR,** OKSANA?

TWO HUNDRED MILLION IN THE FIRST **FOUR DAYS,** CHOON-HE. BASICALLY, ANYONE WHO'S EVER SEEN A **SUPERHERO MOVIE.**

THIS GLOBAL OBSESSION WITH COSTUMED CHARACTERS IS ABSOLUTELY **FASCINATING.** IT JUST SHOWS WHAT A GOOD JOB DISNEY'S **MARKETING DEPARTMENT** HAS BEEN DOING.

ANY NEW **STAND-OUTS?**

LOCAL MAN IN **AFGHANISTAN** WHO DRIVES AROUND HELPING THE WOUNDED SINCE HE LOST HIS FAMILY IN AN **AMERICAN RAID.**

A SPANISH LAWYER BUILDING SCHOOLS IN **AFRICA.** A FRENCH SCIENTIST WHO REFUSED TO PATENT A **COVID VACCINE** BECAUSE HE FELT IT SHOULDN'T BE USED FOR **PROFIT.**

SCANNING NOW, BUT I'M JUST NOT **FEELING** THEM. NONE OF THEM LOOK LIKE **TEAM PLAYERS** AND I FEEL A LITTLE FUNNY ABOUT **VOLUNTEERING YOURSELF.**

THANKS FOR GOING TO MY **FUNERAL** THIS MORNING, BY THE WAY. I OBVIOUSLY COULDN'T HANDLE IT **MYSELF,** BUT I HEARD A LOT OF **OLD FRIENDS** WERE THERE TO SEE MY BODY **CREMATED.**

IT WAS ACTUALLY **VERY MOVING,** CHOON-HE. YOUR COUSIN READ THE MOST **BEAUTIFUL POEM** AND TOLD SOME FUNNY STORIES ABOUT GROWING UP IN **JINHAE** WITH YOU.

ANY-THING FROM MY **EX?**

YOU MEAN LIKE A **WREATH** OR A **CARD** TO APOLOGIZE FOR ALL HIS **SHIT?** NO, JIN-SUNG DIDN'T SEND **ANYTHING,** I'M AFRAID.

OF COURSE HE DIDN'T. WHY DID I ASK? I JUST THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE FEELING A LITTLE GUILT, BUT I FORGET WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A SOCIOPATH HERE.

WELL, THE BEST REVENGE IS LIVING WELL AND IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THIS. I ALSO SUSPECT HIS FUNDING COULD BE IN TROUBLE NOW YOU'RE THE MARKET LEADER IN THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS.

DON'T COUNT ON IT. THE MILITARY AND THE GLOBAL ELITE WILL BE MORE HUNGRY THAN EVER FOR THIS KIND OF TECHNOLOGY.

THE WORLD MIGHT BE EXCITED ABOUT MY BIG COMPETITION, BUT THE LAST THING OUR SUPERIORS WANT IS ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVING POWER.

I JUST WISH WE COULD FIND MORE GOOD CANDIDATES FOR THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM. IT'S SUCH A HUGE DECISION SELECTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

"BUT I LIKE THIS BINNU BHATIA GUY FROM THE DELHI MASSACRE.

"HE ISN'T EXCEPTIONAL BY ANY STANDARDS, BUT HE DID THE RIGHT THING AND SOMETIMES THAT'S ENOUGH."

ONE WEEK LATER.

IF I'M REALLY AT THE SOUTH POLE, WHERE ARE ALL THE **POLAR BEARS?**

POLAR BEARS ARE IN THE **NORTH POLE**, BINNU. IT'S **PENGUINS** DOWN HERE, BUT THAT'S OKAY.

SHOULDN'T WE BE **FREEZING?** HOW COME THERE'S **PALM TREES?**

BECAUSE WE'VE BUILT A LITTLE MICRO-CLIMATE TO MAKE WORKING HERE **MORE PALATABLE.** TRUST ME, IT'S **MINUS-FIFTY** BEYOND THE PERIMETER.

DID I REALLY GET **SHOT?**

ONCE IN THE HEAD AND TWICE IN THE CHEST, BUT THE SURGEONS PUT YOU IN AN ARTIFICIAL COMA AND WE FIXED YOU UP WHEN WE GAVE YOU THE **UPGRADE.**

A LOT OF PEOPLE **DIED** IN THOSE ATTACKS, BUT I'M PLEASED TO REPORT BOTH YOU AND **THE GIRL** YOU SAVED ARE **ABSOLUTELY FINE.**

CAN I AT LEAST CALL MY **FAMILY?**

NOT **YET,** SIR. THEY KNOW YOU'VE MADE A FULL RECOVERY, BUT THE PYSCH TEAM WANTS TO RUN THROUGH YOUR **PHYSICAL AUGMENTATION** FIRST.

YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO JOIN **THE AMBASSADORS,** BINNU. AN **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE SQUAD** THAT REPRESENTS THE BEST OUR **COUNTRIES** HAVE TO OFFER.

I'M TURNING SIX HUMAN BEINGS INTO **SUPER-HEROES** HERE AND YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN AS **AMBASSADOR** FOR **INDIA.**

WHY **ME?**

BECAUSE GITA TOLD US WHAT YOU DID FOR HER AND THAT WAS A **PRETTY AMAZING THING.** CHOON-HE'S LOOKING FOR PEOPLE SHE CAN TRUST.

ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T A **GAG?**

BECAUSE I REALLY DON'T **FEEL** VERY DIFFERENT.

WOW!

THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T **SWITCHED YOU ON** YET. STANDARD **SAFETY PRECAUTION.**

NOW YOU'RE READY TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

HIT THE BUTTON MARKED **BINNU BHATIA** AND PICK A SKILL FROM THE **POWER-BANK.** AMBASSADORS CAN DOWNLOAD **THREE AT A TIME,** BUT IT'S BEST TO START WITH **SOMETHING SIMPLE.**

LIKE *WHAT?*

GRAVITY CONTROL'S A GOOD ONE. *FLIGHT* AND *SPEED* ARE MUCH MORE FUN, BUT ONE OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES IS USING THEM IN THE *MOUNTAINS.*

NOW STAND STILL FOR A SECOND WHILE WE DO AN *AUTHORIZATION.* A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT THEIR HANDS ON THIS *TECH* AND WE'RE TRYING NOT TO MAKE IT *EASY* FOR THEM.

WHAT DOES *GRAVITY CONTROL* EVEN *MEAN?*

YOU CAN ALTER THE WEIGHT OF ANYTHING IN YOUR *VICINITY.*

THE *MASS* OBVIOUSLY STAYS THE SAME, BUT YOU CAN CHANGE THE WEIGHT OF ANYTHING YOU *FOCUS* ON.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU TRAIN YOUR MIND ON THESE TWO-HUNDRED-POUND *WEIGHTS,* YOU CAN REDUCE THEIR HEAVINESS TO ALMOST NOTHING AND MAKE THEM LIGHT ENOUGH TO *FLOAT AWAY.*

SERIOUSLY?

JUST FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION AND IMAGINE THEM GETTING ***LIGHTER.*** THE APP WILL TAKE CARE OF ***THE REST.***

OKAY, BUT...

SHIT!

BINNU, STOP! YOU'RE MAKING ***EVERY-THING ELSE*** LIGHT!

OH GOD.

AAGH!

WHAT'S ***WRONG?***

NOW YOU'RE MAKING EVERYTHING ***HEAVY! CONCENTRATE*** ON ***THE WEIGHTS!***

OKAY, I'VE **GOT** IT. IT'S ALL **UNDER CONTROL.** IT JUST CAUGHT ME **OFF GUARD** FOR A SECOND.

SEE? WHAT DID I **SAY?**

I **TOLD** YOU HE'D BE A **NATURAL.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEET **CODENAME INDIA.**

ARE YOU LOVING THE **COSTUME,** MISTER BHATIA?

WE DESIGNED THEM ALL AROUND EACH AMBASSADOR'S **FLAG** SO THE TEAM WILL LOOK **AMAZING** WHEN YOU'RE STANDING IN A **GROUP SHOT.**

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT THAT **CRAZY** ABOUT IT.

TOO TIGHT?

NO, JUST TOO **OBVIOUS.** AREN'T COSTUMES BASED ON FLAGS A LITTLE **ON THE NOSE?** I THOUGHT WE COULD MAYBE TRY **NATIONAL ANIMALS.**

TRUST ME, WE'VE **EXPLORED** ALL THESE IDEAS...

...AND IF WE BASE OUR COSTUMES ON **ANIMAL MOTIFS,** WE'LL LOOK LIKE THE CAST OF **CATS.**

BESIDES, **TIGERS** AND **PANTHERS** ARE ALL VERY COOL, BUT THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE A **KANGAROO.**

WE'VE HAD **COMIC BOOK ARTISTS** DESIGNING THESE FOR **MONTHS,** AND THIS WAS LITERALLY THE ONLY THEME THE ENTIRE CREW **AGREED** UPON.

WHAT ABOUT **AIR?**

DON'T WORRY. EVERY AMBASSADOR IS PROTECTED BY AN **ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA.** YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE AIR YOU **NEED** UP THERE.

OKAY.

NOW WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE IS OUR NEW **COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE,** AND I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR **TELEKINESIS FUNCTION** AND GET THIS THING INTO **ORBIT** FOR US.

OH MY GOD!

YOU GOT A GOOD GRIP?

ARE YOU JOKING?

DON'T BE SCARED. WE'RE ONLY GOING THROUGH SOME CLOUDS AND I'M RIGHT HERE IF YOU NEED ME.

DO YOU REALLY NOT LIKE YOUR COSTUME?

NO, IT'S FINE. I JUST SAW IT A LITTLE MORE SHAKTIMAAN MYSELF, BUT IF THIS WORKS BETTER FOR THE TEAM AS A WHOLE I'M COOL WITH THAT TOO.

DID GITA GANESH REALLY RECOMMEND ME?

WHAT YOU DID FOR HER WAS ACTUALLY VERY SPECIAL.

ARE WE ABSOLUTELY WEDDED TO CODENAME INDIA? BECAUSE I WAS THINKING MAHARAJAH SOUNDED PRETTY GOOD, OR MAYBE EVEN BLUE LOTUS.

WOULD YOU STOP?

SHIT.

NOW I WANT YOU TO JUMP FROM HERE TO **THE OCEAN.** IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN, BUT I'LL BE WATCHING THE ENTIRE TIME AND YOUR **AURA** SHOULD PROTECT YOU FROM ANY OF THE **NASTIES.**

THIS IS INSANE.

YOU MADE IT UP HERE. GOING DOWN'S THE EASY PART.

THE WORST THAT MIGHT HAPPEN IS YOUR COSTUME BURNS UP, BUT I'VE DONE ALL THE MATH AND THAT SHOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.

BINNU, YOU'RE A SUPERHERO NOW. YOU'LL BE DOING THESE THINGS ALL THE TIME.

GOOD BOY.

HE'S REALLY GETTING THE *HANG* OF IT, ISN'T HE? SKIN TEMPERATURE *NORMAL*. COSTUME *INTACT*.

HOW ARE YOU *HOLDING UP*, BINNU?

I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A *COMIC BOOK*, MAN. HOW CAN THIS BE *HAPPENING?*

I'M JUST AN *ASSHOLE* FROM *THE PHONE STORE!*

NOT ANYMORE.

HEY, MAN. **CHICO BLANCO.** I KNOW WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY OUR NAMES, BUT I FEEL LIKE A DICK SAYING **CODENAME MEXICO.**

NICE TO **MEET** YOU, MISTER BLANCO. HOW WAS YOUR TELEPORT TO THE **SOUTH POLE?**

PRETTY FUCKING **WEIRD,** TO BE HONEST. LISTEN, HOW COME EVERYBODY SPEAKS SUCH GOOD **SPANISH?** EVEN THE **ACCENT** IS **COMPLETELY PERFECT.**

OH, THAT'S JUST OUR **TRANSLATOR PINS,** SIR. YOU'LL GET ONE **TOO.** WHATEVER YOU SAY JUST GETS TRANSLATED INTO WHATEVER LANGUAGE YOU **UNDER-STAND.** IT'S ALL VERY **CLEVER.**

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS **ME** YOU GUYS MEANT TO CHOOSE FOR MEXICO?

BECAUSE THE WORLD'S GOING **CRAZY** WITH PEOPLE TRYING TO JOIN THIS, AND I'VE REALLY NEVER DONE **ANY-THING SPECIAL.**

CHOON-HE CHUNG **DOESN'T MAKE** MISTAKES, SIR. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THIS WHEN YOU GET TO **KNOW** HER.

WOW. IS THAT THE **INDIAN** GUY? I SAW HIM ON THE **NEWS** LAST NIGHT, AND HE'S REALLY HAVING A **GOOD TIME** OUT THERE, HUH?

HE REALLY **IS.**

BUT I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO PUT OUT THAT **CIGARETTE,** MISTER BLANCO. MARIJUANA'S **BANNED** INSIDE THE FACILITY.

LATER

CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW **EXCITED** EVERYONE WAS JUST SEEING ME HELP A GUY WITH A **FLAT TIRE?**

I LITERALLY JUST HELD UP THE END OF HIS TRUCK WHILE HE CHANGED A WHEEL AND NOW THEY'RE PAINTING **MURALS** OF ME ON THE SIDE OF PEOPLE'S **HOMES.**

THERE'S A POP STAR PRETENDING THAT SHE AND I ARE **DATING.**

THE AMBASSADORS ARE THE WORLD'S FOURTH **EMERGENCY SERVICE,** BINNU. AFTER **POLICE, FIRE** AND **AMBULANCE,** WE'RE THE NEW GUYS PEOPLE **CALL.**

HAVING AN **INDIAN** IN THIS GROUP IS JUST A TREMENDOUS SOURCE OF **NATIONAL PRIDE** FOR PEOPLE.

THERE'S POLITICIANS SAYING THEY'LL GIVE UP **PUBLIC OFFICE** FOR THIS, BILLIONAIRES OFFERING EVERY PENNY THEY **OWN.**

YOU AND THE OTHERS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE ON **PLANET EARTH,** MY FRIEND. COMPLETELY REINVENT WHAT WE MEAN BY **CELEBRITY...**

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE TO WEAR A **MASK,** RIGHT? YOU'LL GET HOUNDED WHEREVER YOU GO IF PEOPLE LEARN YOUR **SECRET.**

WHAT ABOUT MY **PARENTS?**

I'M **SORRY,** BINNU.

GITA GANESH?

ACTUALLY, WE NEED TO **TALK** TO YOU ABOUT GITA.

THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T TOLD YOU BECAUSE THE PSYCH TEAM WANTED TO **WAIT**, BUT THAT COMA YOU WERE IN LASTED LONGER THAN YOU **REALIZE**.

WHAT DO YOU **MEAN**?

THE DELHI MASSACRE WAS **SEVEN YEARS AGO**, AND YOU WERE LYING IN THAT HOSPITAL FOR A REALLY **LONG TIME**.

ARE YOU **SHITTING** ME?

NOW, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT EVERYONE'S OKAY, BUT THERE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN A FEW **CHANGES** WHILE YOU WERE GONE.

YOUR FAMILY'S PRETTY MUCH ALL THE SAME EXCEPT YOUR **FATHER** RETIRED AND YOUR SISTER'S IN BANGALORE, BUT THERE'S **BIG NEWS** FOR **GITA GANESH** AND WE REALLY HOPE YOU'RE **COOL** WITH THIS.

SHE'S MARRIED TO YOUR FRIEND **JAI** AND THEY HAVE A **LITTLE BOY** NOW.

WHAT?

IS SHE REALLY SINGLE?

THEY GOT CLOSE AFTER THE **TERROR ATTACKS**. I THINK THEY STARTED GOING TO **COUNSELLING** AND, WELL, THEY'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR **FIVE YEARS**.

I'M SORRY, BINNU. I'VE HEARD THIS HAPPENS **A LOT** AFTER A TRAUMA, BUT THEY'RE LIVING UP IN **JOR BAGH** NOW SINCE JAI WON THE **PLAYWIN LOTTERY**.

OKAY, ENOUGH! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE! I JUST WANT TO LET MY MUMMY AND PAPA KNOW I'M STILL ALIVE.

REMEMBER, THEY CAN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS. WHEN YOU GO BACK HOME, THEY NEED TO THINK YOU JUST WOKE UP FROM A COMA.

DO WE HAVE YOUR WORD?

I PROMISE.

MANGOLPURI

OH, BINNU. YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY WE ARE TO HAVE YOU BACK...

WE PRAYED NIGHT AND DAY AND NOW LOOK AT YOU. THOSE DOCTORS ARE MIRACLE WORKERS. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE MY HANDSOME BOY AGAIN.

DUDE, I AM SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT ALL THIS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I JUST HOPE WE'RE STILL GOOD.

YOU'RE MY **BEST FRIEND**, JAI. WE'LL **ALWAYS** BE GOOD.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY **MEET** YOU, BINNU. IT'S WEIRD TO **THINK**, BUT I WOULDN'T EVEN **BE** HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR WHAT YOU DID.

FORGET **CODENAME INDIA** AND ALL THESE **AMBASSADORS** WE'RE HEARING ABOUT. **YOU'RE** THE SUPERHERO AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

UH, **RIGHT.**

OH, AND YOUR BOSS AT THE **PHONE STORE** CALLED. HE SAID HE KNOWS IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS, BUT HE'S STILL GOT A JOB FOR THE **HERO OF THE MALL.**

HE'S ACTUALLY ARRANGED FOR **NDTV** TO BE THERE WHEN YOU START YOUR FIRST DAY AND HE EXPECTS TO DRAW **QUITE A CROWD.**

MISTER YARADKAR HAS **ANOTHER** BIG SURPRISE, BINNU. WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SAY, BUT WE KNOW IT'S SOMETHING YOU **ALWAYS WANTED...**

MONDAY MORNING

COME INSIDE

FIX YOUR PHONE!

THAT'S RIGHT, AUNTIE. **ASSISTANT MANAGER.** I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO DO THE **TRAINING COURSE.** MISTER YARADKAR IS OUT FOR HIS COFFEE RIGHT NOW SO I'M IN CHARGE OF THE STORE **MYSELF.**

SORRY. I'VE GOT **CUSTOMERS.** I'LL SEE YOU AT NAANI'S FOR **DINNER,** OKAY?

MISTER BHATIA, MY NAME IS **VERA BENNETT** AND I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE SUPERHERO **CHOON-HE CHUNG'S** EX-HUSBAND.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN HOW WE'RE **AWARE,** BUT WE'VE BEEN SENT BY JIN-SUNG TO MAKE YOU A **PROPOSITION.**

WH-WHAT?

THIS IS A CHECK FOR A **HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS...**

...IT'S YOURS IF YOU TELL US THE SECRET OF THESE **POWERS** YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN.

THREE

BISTROT
CAFÉ
PRODUITS
TERROIR
VIANDES
DE SÉLECTION
CUISINE FRANÇAISE
PÊCHE DE
PETITS BATEAUX
LÉGUMES
DE MARAÎCHERS
CUISINE DE SAISON
VINS DE
PROPRIÉTÉS

PARIS!

I'M WORRIED MY SON IS GOING TO **HURT** SOMEONE.

JEAN-LUC HAS ALWAYS BEEN A **LONER,** BUT EVER SINCE MY HUSBAND LEFT HE'S DESCENDED INTO SOMETHING I **CAN'T UNDERSTAND.**

LYCEE BELMONT

ÇA POURRAIT ÊTRE VOUS!

?

FUCK THE **AMBASSADORS** AND THIS STUPID **SUPERHERO COMPETITION!**

IT DOESN'T HELP THAT HIS FATHER IS A FOUNDER OF THE GILETS JAUNES AND A REVOLUTIONARY FILMMAKER HERE IN FRANCE.

COURTED BY HOLLYWOOD AND LOVED BY HIS PEERS, HE'S EVEN TALKING ABOUT MAKING A ***SUPER-HERO PICTURE*** IF HE CAN FIND THE TIME.

THE MOST FANTASTICAL ASPECT OF SUPERMAN FOR ME IS THE IDEA OF A ***PROFITABLE NEWSPAPER*** IN THE ***MODERN WORLD.*** THE ***DAILY PLANET*** IS WHAT THIS MOVIE SHOULD BE ABOUT.

MY SON WAS NAMED AFTER MY HUSBAND'S IDOL JEAN-LUC GODARD, BUT I'M AFRAID HE NEVER LIVED UP TO OUR ***HIGH HOPES.***

HE DOESN'T GET PICKED ON BY ***JOCKS*** AT SCHOOL. HE GETS BEATEN UP BY THE ***WARHAMMER*** KIDS.

HE KEEPS AN ENEMIES LIST THAT RUNS TO ***HUNDREDS...***

...AND I FOUND A PLAN TO MURDER HIS ***CLASSMATES*** WITH GUNS HE'S BEEN SOURCING ON THE ***DARK WEB.***

OH GOD.

WHEN I CONFRONTED HIM, HE ***DENIED EVERYTHING...***

JESUS, MAMAN. I WAS JUST HAVING ***FUN.*** YEAH, THESE GUYS PISS ME OFF, BUT I'M NOT A ***PSYCHO.*** I JUST DESIGN THESE LITTLE ***ASSAULT PLANS*** TO GET ME ***THROUGH THE DAY.***

I'M WORRIED JEAN-LUC HAS NO RESPECT FOR **OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.** I'M WORRIED HE HAS NO RESPECT FOR **ME.**

WHEN I CHECK HIS HISTORY, HE'S BEEN GOOGLING HIS **FATHER,** BUT I'M JUST A RECEPTIONIST IN A **BIG HOTEL** AND CAN'T EVEN BUY HIM THE **CLOTHES** HE WANTS.

ALLURE

Alarme

La Courneuve

BUT IF I WERE A **SUPERHERO.** IF YOU LET ME BE PART OF THIS **TEAM** YOU'RE BUILDING, HE MIGHT RESPECT ME LIKE HE **RESPECTS** HIS **DAD.**

0366

CATCH THAT FUCKING ORK, MY DAEMONS!

I HAVE **NO MONEY, NO STATUS** AND NOTHING TO **TALK** TO HIM ABOUT.

MAKE ME INTO ONE OF YOUR **AMBASSADORS** AND I COULD FINALLY BE A **ROLE MODEL** FOR HIM.

SOUTH KOREA.

ANOTHER BUILDING IN CHOON-HE CHUNG'S EMPIRE

You know what it's like to have a difficult ex-husband.

YASMINE AND JEAN-LUC GALYIN:

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS THING IN THE **NEWS**, JEAN-LUC? THIS WOMAN GIVING OUT **SUPERPOWERS** TO PEOPLE SHE THINKS ARE WORTHY TO BE THEIR COUNTRY'S **AMBASSADOR?**

YEAH, BUT IT'S **BULLSHIT**, MAMAN. EVEN IF IT'S TRUE, YOU'VE MORE CHANCE OF WINNING **LE LOTO.**

FIRST OF ALL, YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE AT THE **TABLE.** SECONDLY, NOBODY GETS ANYWHERE WITH A **NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.**

OH, RIGHT. BECAUSE **YOUR** LIFE TURNED OUT SO GREAT.

PLEASE. STOP BEING FACETIOUS AND JUST **LISTEN** TO ME FOR A SECOND. TURN THE **CLOCK HANDS** TO MIDNIGHT AND SEE WHAT **HAPPENS.** I'VE SOMETHING **AMAZING** I NEED TO SHOW YOU.

WHAT?

JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND **TURN THE HANDS.** I WANT TO PROVE YOU CAN TURN YOUR LIFE **AROUND** IF YOU OPEN YOURSELF UP TO **NEW POSSIBILITIES.**

OKAY, BUT THIS IS **COMPLETELY RETARDED...**

WHAT'S *THIS?*

SOMETHING WORKMEN INSTALLED WHILE YOU WERE *AT SCHOOL.* NOW STEP ONTO THE PLATFORM AND HOLD ON *TIGHT.* I DON'T THINK YOU'LL WANT TO *MISS THIS.*

YOU MEAN *HERE?*

WHAT'S *GOING ON?*

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE *GET* THERE.

WHY ARE OUR **NAMES** ON THESE POLES?

BECAUSE THIS IS HOW WE GET TO OUR **SECRET HEAD-QUARTERS.**

WOW!

WE'RE TWO HUNDRED FEET BENEATH **PORT DE LA CHAPELLE.** STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A BILLION EUROS IN **HIGH-TECH HARDWARE.**

THIS IS WHERE I'VE BEEN **FIGHTING CRIME** SINCE I WROTE TO **CHOON-HE CHUNG** AND SHE SELECTED ME TO BE **CODENAME FRANCE.**

BIP

THIS **SMART BAND** SHE CREATED ALLOWS ME TO DOWNLOAD ANY **SUPERPOWER** I NEED FROM HER POWER-BANK AT THE **SOUTH POLE.**

STRENGTH. **SPEED.** KARATE EXPERT. **X-RAY VISION.**

I CAN DOWNLOAD THREE DIFFERENT POWERS **AT A TIME,** AND I'VE BEEN USING THE **DETECTIVE APP** TO INVESTIGATE A **JEWEL HEIST** AT **PLACE VENDÔME** LAST WEEK.

TH-THIS IS **CRAZY.** I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO **SAY.**

DON'T WORRY. I GOT YOU ONE **TOO.**

HOLY **SHIT!**

LANGUAGE, PLEASE.

NOW I WANT YOU TO **JOIN ME** ON TONIGHT'S BIG CASE. YOU DON'T NEED TO **FIGHT** ANYONE, BUT I'D LIKE YOU ON **STANDBY** JUST IN CASE I **NEED** YOU.

DOWN-LOADING **STUNT DRIVER** FOR A **HIGH-SPEED** TRIP OUT OF TOWN...

YOUR SUPERHERO CODENAME IS **PARIS,** INCIDENTALLY.

OKAY, NOW THE AUTHORITIES THINK THESE JEWEL THIEVES FLED TO **VENICE**, BUT I'VE TRACKED THEM DOWN TO **L'ABATTOIR DE LA NAUSÉE** TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS ON THE OUTSKIRTS.

I HACKED ALL RECENT TEXTS IN AND OUT OF THE CITY, AND THEY SENT A CODED MESSAGE ABOUT A **PICKUP** IN A **FRUIT TRUCK** AFTER THREE FULL DAYS OF **LYING LOW.**

WE NEED TO CHANGE THE CAR SO THEY DON'T SEE US COMING, BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. THE **CAMO FUNCTION** CHOON-HE BUILT IN COMES WITH **FORTY-EIGHT** DIFFERENT **VISUALS.**

THE CAR CAN CIRCLE ON **AUTOPILOT** WHILE YOU AND I DOWNLOAD **ARACHNID-MODE** AND **FLEA-AGILITY.**

HOW AM I **DOING** THIS? I CAN'T EVEN JUMP THE **BEAM** AT SCHOOL.

YOU'RE NOT DOING **ANYTHING**. IT'S THE **SMART BAND**. THERE'S ACTUALLY OVER **FIFTY** SUPERPOWERS WE CAN ACCESS WITH THIS, BUT WE'VE PLENTY OF TIME TO TRY THEM **ALL**.

NOW **FOLLOW ME** AND BE READY IF I **NEED** YOU. I'M DOWNLOADING THE **PRIZEFIGHTER** APP IF YOU WANT TO GO **KARATE** OR **JEET KUNE DO**.

WHAT THE **FUCK?**

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T **BELONG** TO YOU, GENTLEMEN.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

OH, I FORGOT TO SAY, BUT THE SMART BAND COMES WITH AN ***ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA*** THAT MEANS WE'RE ESSENTIALLY ***BULLET-PROOF*** WHEN WE'RE WEARING IT.

DO YOU WANT TO ***TRY OUT*** THE FIGHT APPS OR WILL I HAVE TO DO THESE GUYS BY ***MYSELF?***

JUST TRY ***STOPPING*** ME...

BIFF! POW! SMASH!

NOW I'M ACCESSING **TELEKINESIS** SO I CAN WRAP THEM UP FOR THE **POLICE**. COULD YOU **CONTACT** THEM FOR ME?

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE **PAINT** AND THE **BRUSHES**?

JUST A LITTLE TOUCH I USED TO LIKE IN THOSE OLD **SUPERHERO CARTOONS**...

KRASH

Avec Mes Compliments

WE FOILED A JEWEL ROBBERY, MAMAN! WE'RE GOING TO BE ALL OVER THE INTERNET!

THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS. I'M TUNING IN TO THE EMERGENCY CHANNELS AND THERE'S A FIRE AT CITÉ PABLO PICASSO IN NANTERRE WHERE THE LADDERS AREN'T REACHING!

WHAT CAN WE DO IF THE FIREFIGHTERS CAN'T REACH THEM?

IMPROVISE.

WOW!

IT'S FINE. JUST GET IN AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN AND DOWNLOAD TELEKINESIS SO YOU CAN PICK THEM UP...

...I'LL DO FLIGHT AND FIREPROOF FUNCTIONS SO I CAN FIND THE ONES WE CAN'T SEE FROM UP HERE.

WOW.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD FLY.

YOU CAN'T. NOT UNTIL YOU'RE OVER EIGHTEEN. THIS AND PLASMA BEAMS COME WITH AN AGE RESTRICTION...

...YOU STILL NEED SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

FLASH SPÉCIAL

"RUNAWAY TRAIN FROM **PARIS** TO **LILLE**. AN **AIRBRAKE FAIL** WITH **TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE** ON BOARD."

OH NO.

WHAT'S THE **MATTER?**

CRISE DU BUT

I'LL TRY TO RESCUE THE **PASSENGER CARRIAGES**. YOU PUT YOURSELF BETWEEN THE **TRAIN** AND THE **STATION**.

GOT IT.

REGARDEZ DEHORS, IL Y A QUELQU'UN ENTRE LES **WAGONS!!!**

12

DON'T BE **SCARED!** I'M JUST DISCONNECTING YOU GUYS FROM THE **RUNAWAY ENGINE.** JEAN-LUC, ARE YOU IN **POSITION?**

JUST LOWERING THE CAR **NOW** AND DOWNLOADING **MATHEMATICIAN, ENGINEER** AND **RACING DRIVER** FUNCTIONS.

YOU NEED TO MATCH THE **SPEED** OF THE **TRAIN** AND THEN HIT THE BRAKES AS **HARD** AS YOU **CAN.**

GRAVITY AND **TELEKINESIS** WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, BUT **ANOTHER AMBASSADOR'S** USING THEM RIGHT NOW FOR A RESCUE MISSION IN **PAKISTAN.**

DOWNLOADING: **STRENGTH.**

BRUTE STRENGTH WILL **HAVE TO DO.**

OKAY, MAMAN. THAT'S ME LINED UP WITH THE *TRAIN*.

GOOD. NOW HIT THE BRAKES AS HARD AS YOU *CAN*!

KEEP GOING! IT'S *NOT SLOWING MUCH!*

I'M PULLING THE STICK AS *HARD* AS I *CAN!*

THE STATION'S LESS THAN *A MILE AWAY* SO WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE *SUBTLE* HERE!

IT'S WORKING, MAMAN! KEEP PUSHING!

I'LL CLIMB OUT AND GIVE YOU A HAND!

CECI EST UN **MESSAGE D'URGENCE!** LA ZONE DOIT ÊTRE **DÉGAGÉE!** VEUILLEZ ÉVACUER **IMMÉDIATEMENT** LA STATION ET SUIVRE LES AGENTS VERS UN ENDROIT SÛR!

NON, **REGARDEZ.** C'EST BON. IL Y A QUELQUE CHOSE QUI LE RALENTIT JUSQU'À **L'ARRÊT COMPLET!**

OH MON DIEU.

DID WE *DO* IT?

WE *DID* IT.

OH, JEAN-LUC. I AM *SO PROUD* OF YOU.

WELL, MONSIEUR JAMIE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* SUPER PERSON IN THE WORLD ANYMORE. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL YOUR *NEW FRIENDS* OUT THERE?

I SEE *DEAD PEOPLE.*

THE EMBASSY, SOUTH KOREA.

"DEAR YASMINE...

"...CAN I JUST SAY HOW ***PLEASED*** I AM THAT YOU AND YOUR SON HAVE BEEN DOING SUCH A ***GREAT JOB!***

"I'M ALSO DELIGHTED THAT YOUR ***RELATIONSHIP*** HAS IMPROVED AND YOU'VE BROUGHT SOME MUCH-NEEDED ***LIGHT*** TO THE WORLD IN THESE VERY ***STRANGE TIMES.***

"BUT I ALSO THOUGHT NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO TELL YOU THAT IT WASN'T ***YOUR*** EMAIL THAT PROMPTED ME TO PICK YOU AS OUR AMBASSADOR FOR FRANCE...

"...IT WAS JEAN-LUC'S EMAIL ***THREE DAYS EARLIER.***

"HE TOLD US YOU WERE THE BEST ***MOTHER*** IN THE ***WORLD.*** ABOUT THE ***SACRIFICES*** YOU MADE FOR HIM EVERY DAY AND HOW YOU NEVER ONCE ***BAD-MOUTHED*** HIS FATHER, EVEN WHEN YOU HAD GOOD REASON.

"HE SAID YOU WERE ***LONELY*** AND NEEDED A LITTLE ***FUN,*** SO HE ASKED US TO MAKE YOU A ***SUPERHERO.***"

"HE LOVES YOU **SO MUCH.** HE'S JUST AT AN AGE HE HAS A HARD TIME **SHOWING IT** AND IF YOU EVER THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO **HURT** SOMEONE...

CONCIERGE

"...WELL, YOU COULDN'T BE MORE **WRONG.**

"I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BOTH AT OUR BIG **OFFICIAL LAUNCH.**

"WARMEST REGARDS,

"CODENAME KOREA."

PARDON ME, MADAME GAUVIN...

YASMINE

...MY NAME IS **VERA BENNETT** AND I WANT TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER ON BEHALF OF **JIN-SUNG CHUNG.**

PONT DES ARTS:

FOUR

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL:

SHIT. WHAT A FUCKIN' **BULLSEYE.**

ANY IDEA WHAT **HAPPENED** HERE, FATHER?

YOU TELL **ME.** THE MAN I WAS COUNSELLING TO LEAVE THE MILITIA SHOWS UP DEAD ON THE STEPS OF MY CHURCH. MY GUESS IS YOUR BOSS HAD HIM **EXECUTED.**

POLICIA

NAH, THIS WASN'T ONE OF **OURS.** THE KIDS ARE SAYING **OCTAVIO** OFFED HIM AND HE'S TRYING TO MOVE INTO OUR **TAXI BUSINESS.**

WE'RE SENDING ZEE TO NIP IT IN THE BUD. LAST THING WE WANT'S ANOTHER **TURF WAR.**

LISTEN TO YOURSELVES. NOT EVEN A **HINT** OF SHAME.

GET AWAY FROM **GOD'S HOUSE** AND TAKE YOUR FILTHY GUNS **WITH** YOU!

KEEP YOUR **HAIR** ON, MAN. WE'RE ONLY DOING OUR **JOBS**.

POLICIA

Dear Father Vitor Pereira,

You have been selected out of three hundred million applicants to join the ambassad Codename Brazil.

Please stand by for information on h n access your incredibl wers.

MILÍCIA MATA

CHEGA DE VIOLÊNCIA

A MILÍCIA RESISTE ASSASSINA

JUSTIÇA

FORA MILÍCIA RACIST

FORA MILÍCIA

WHAT?

ZEE·

WHO THE HELL **MURDERED** A BITCH RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR **DOOR?**

GET HER INSIDE BEFORE SOME-ONE **SEES** HER. GODDAMN **COPS** COULD BE PASSING BY.

DIDI?

DIDI! GET IN HERE!

PTOOM

PTOOM

PTOOM

SPOK

SPOK

SPOK

OH FUCK.

DIDI'S **DEAD**, OCTAVIO, AND I'VE BEEN SENT TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUTUAL FRIEND **CAPTAIN LOTTO.**

YOU'RE GOING TO BE HIS **BUTLER** NOW, AND YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTERS ARE GOING TO BE HIS **HOUSE-MAIDS.**

ALL YOUR DRIVERS ARE **WORKING FOR HIM** AS OF TONIGHT, AND EVERY-THING YOU OWNED IS **HIS.** DO YOU **UNDERSTAND?**

A-ABSOLUTELY.

GOOD.

YOU'VE GOT AN **EARLY START** IN THE MORNING.

CAPTAIN EDUARDO LOBO

I THINK HIS KIDS HAVE ACTUALLY FOUND THEIR **VOCATION,** ZEE I'VE **NEVER SEEN** THE BATHROOMS SO SPICK AND SPAN. YOU COULD EAT YOUR **BREAKFAST** OFF THAT GODDAMN TOILET.

LITTLE EXTRA FOR DOING SUCH A **FINE JOB--**

--PLUS SOME PILLS BECAUSE I **LOVE YOU.**

YOU DON'T NEED TO **TELL** ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, ZEE. I SAW THE **PICTURES.** I'M ALSO NOT SURE HOW SERIOUSLY YOU **TAKE** CONFESSION IF YOU JUST KEEP DOING THIS OVER AND **OVER.**

BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED. IT'S BEEN **SIXTEEN DAYS** SINCE MY LAST CONFESSION.

BUT I REALLY AM **PENITENT,** FATHER PEREIRA. I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN WHAT THE CAPTAIN SENDS ME TO DO AND I TRY MY BEST TO WORK WITHIN A **MORAL CODE.**

IS THIS A **JOKE?**

I DIDN'T JOIN THE MILITIA TO BE A **MURDERER.** I GREW UP IN THE FAVELAS WATCHING DRUG DEALERS CHARGE US FOR **GAS** AND **ELECTRICITY.**

AND NOW THE **POLICE** CHARGE US FOR GAS AND ELECTRICITY. YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS THE PEOPLE YOU **REPLACED.**

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO **DO?** IF I WALK AWAY, I END UP **DEAD** AND HE REPLACES ME WITH SOMEONE **WORSE.**

THIS **STRIKE** YOU'RE ORGANIZING IS A REALLY BAD IDEA, BY THE WAY.

YOU'VE BEEN PROTECTED HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR STATUS, BUT YOU INTERFERE WITH THEIR **TAX COLLECTING** AND THEY'LL PUT A **BULLET** IN YOUR HEAD.

THIS ISN'T TAX. THIS IS **ROBBERY.**

ASSASSINA

FORA MIL

RACISTA

MILÍCIA MATA

FORA

JUST STOP MAKING TROUBLE OR WE'LL **ALL** REGRET IT.

ANTARCTICA

WHAT THE HELL AM I *DOING* HERE?

THE SOUTH POLE?

NO. ***PLAYING SUPERHEROES*** WITH YOU PEOPLE. OBVIOUSLY I SAW THE COMPETITION ON TV, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW I DIDN'T NOMINATE ***MYSELF.***

WELL, TWO THOUSAND OF YOUR ***PARISHIONERS*** DID, AND THAT'S WHEN WE REALIZED WE WERE LOOKING AT ***SOMEONE SPECIAL.***

RIO'S GOT A LOT OF PROBLEMS. ALL THOSE COPS THAT JOINED THE MILITIAS MIGHT HAVE CLEARED OUT THE **DRUG LORDS**, BUT THEY'VE CREATED SOMETHING **WORSE**, AND YOUR POLITICIANS JUST TURN A **BLIND EYE**.

YOU'VE BROUGHT A LOT OF **HOPE** SINCE YOU CAME TO THAT PARISH, BUT YOU'RE **ONLY HUMAN**...

WHAT IF WE TURNED YOU INTO **SOMETHING ELSE?**

BY PUTTING ON THIS **WRIST-BAND?** LETTING YOUR **COMPUTER** TAKE OVER MY BODY?

BY GIVING YOU ACCESS TO **FIFTY DIFFERENT POWERS**. LOOK AROUND YOU, FATHER. ANYTHING YOU TOUCH COULD BE **YOURS** AND YOU CAN DOWNLOAD UP TO **THREE** AT A **TIME**.

THINK OF THE **GOOD** YOU COULD DO WITH ALL THIS.

I'M DOING FINE AS I **AM**.

YOU SEE THAT MAN UP THERE IN THE *SKY*? HE'S SEVENTY-TWO YEARS OLD, AND WHEN HE CAME TO US, HE COULD *BARELY WALK*.

NOW HE'S FLYING AROUND ON MANEUVERS WITH *JETS* AND HITTING SPEEDS EVEN *THEY* CAN'T MATCH.

WE'RE WASTING EACH OTHER'S *TIME*, MISS CHUNG. I REALLY COULDN'T BE *LESS INTERESTED*.

JUST STAND BACK AND WATCH WHAT HE CAN *DO* NOW. IT'S *AMAZING*. HE'LL BE *PASSING THROUGH* IN A SECOND...

"HOW FAST WAS HE *GOING*?"

I'VE **NO IDEA.** I COULDN'T EVEN **SEE** HIM. BUT I THINK HE'S THEIR CHOICE FOR **THE AUSTRALIAN** AMBASSADOR AND SOMEBODY SAID HE WAS A **BIG POLITICIAN.**

SERIOUSLY?

SO THEY **SAID.**

QUEREMOS JUSTICIA FOR FELICIA!!!

I REALLY DON'T SEE A **DOWNSIDE** TO ALL THIS VITOR THAT WRIST-BAND COULD KEEP YOU SAFE FROM THE LOCAL **ASSASSINATION SQUADS.**

GOD WILL KEEP ME SAFE

WHAT ABOUT THE **BABY?**

GOD WILL KEEP THE BABY SAFE **TOO.** THIS WASN'T WHAT I WAS **CALLED TO DO,** MARIA. THIS WAS NEVER PART OF THE **PLAN.**

YOU GET THE CALL?

YEAH, FUCK IT.

YOU GONNA KILL HIM?

DO I EVEN HAVE A CHOICE? THERE'S RULES TO LIVING HERE, AND YOU AND I ARE JUST THE LITTLE PEOPLE, CARLOS.

"WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SUCH A GODDAMN TROUBLEMAKER?"

HELLO, ZEE. I HEARD A **RUMOR** YOU WERE COMING TO VISIT ME TODAY.

DON'T TURN AROUND, FATHER. I DON'T WANT TO **LOOK** AT YOU WHEN I PULL THIS TRIGGER.

IT'S FUNNY. LAST NIGHT I WAS STANDING AT THE SOUTH POLE AND A WOMAN I'D NEVER MET GAVE ME THIS **MAGIC WRISTBAND.**

SHE SAID IT WOULD GIVE ME **SUPER-POWERS** AND SHE WANTED ME TO JOIN A **TEAM** SHE WAS BUILDING. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANYTHING **MORE RIDICULOUS?**

SHE TOLD ME TO **THINK** ABOUT IT FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, BUT I TOLD HER I WAS **ALREADY ON** A TEAM.

STOP **TALKING,** FATHER. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THIS MORE PAINFUL THAN IT **HAS** TO BE.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HURT **ANYONE,** ZEE...

...EVER **AGAIN.**

TO BE HONEST, I'M A LITTLE **SUPERSTITIOUS** ABOUT KILLING PRIESTS. EVEN THE **NAUGHTY** ONES WITH A **SECRET GIRLFRIEND...**

THAT'S WHY I LOOKED THE OTHER WAY FOR SO LONG, BUT HE PUT ME IN A **TERRIBLE POSITION,** OCTAVIO. IT'S LIKE HE **WANTED** TO BE A MARTYR.

HE JUST HAS TO UNDERSTAND .IT'S EITHER **US** OR **THE GANGS,** AND NOBODY WANTS THOSE **ANIMALS** BACK IN CHARGE.

NO OFFENSE **INTENDED.**

UH, NONE **TAKEN,** CAPTA'N LOBO.

WHAT THE HELL?

CAPTAIN **EDUARDO LOBO!** I HOPE YOU HEAR THIS LOUD AND CLEAR BECAUSE I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY IT **ONCE.**

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL LEAVE **RIO** BY **MIDNIGHT** AND BE OUT OF THIS HOUSE IN **SIXTY SECONDS.**

WHAT'S **GOING ON?** WHO'S **DOING** THIS?

YOU'VE BEEN A **CANCER** ON THIS PLACE, AND YOU NEED TO BE **REMOVED.** IF YOU DON'T LEAVE NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO END UP LIKE YOUR **CARS.**

P-PAPA? YOU NEED TO **SEE** THIS...

JESUS!

YOU HAVE **THIRTY** SECONDS TO GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE AND GO SOMEWHERE NOBODY WILL EVER **SEE** YOU.

WATCH THE HOLES. IT'S A **LONG WAY DOWN.**

WHAT HOLES?

EARTHQUAKE HOLES.

~~WE~~'RE GOING! WE'RE GOING!

FIVE.

FOUR.

THREE.

TWO.

ONE...

JUST KEEP MOVING! DON'T FUCKING LOOK!

WELL, THAT FELT PRETTY DAMN GOOD.

THANK YOU, PADRE.

SUNDAY

SOMEONE LOOKS VERY PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

I TOLD YOU THE LORD WOULD LOOK AFTER US, MARIA...

O POVO VENCEU

PEACE

"...THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SAVE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY."

CONTROL, THIS IS CODENAME BRAZIL REQUESTING TRANSPORT FROM RIO TO THE EMBASSY IN SEOUL, PLEASE.

TRANSPORT IS ON THE WAY, BRAZIL. STAND BY.

GOOD TO MEET YOU, ZEE.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM.

SAN FRANCISCO.

TELL MISTER ANSEN HE CAN **COME IN** NOW, VERA.

I FEEL LIKE I'M JOINING **SKULL AND BONES** AGAIN, DUDE.

WELL, WE'RE A LITTLE MORE EXCLUSIVE THAN **THAT,** BRINN. OUR SPECIAL CLUB IS JUST THE BILLIONAIRES IN THIS ROOM, AND IF **YOU** SIGN UP, THAT BRINGS US TO **FORTY-ONE.**

YOUR FRIENDS HAVE ALL VOUCHED FOR YOUR ABILITY TO KEEP A SECRET AND I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL MY COMPANY'S **COSTS.**

WILL THE UPGRADE BE A CURE FOR MY **DIABETES?** BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ON THIS INSULIN PUMP SINCE I WAS **EIGHT YEARS OLD,** AND IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL **HALF MY LIFE.**

THE UPGRADE COMES WITH **PERFECT HEALTH,** SO YOU'LL NEVER BE IN THE HOSPITAL **AGAIN.**

BUT WHAT WE DO HERE MUST NEVER **GO PUBLIC.** DO YOU **UNDERSTAND?** THIS CLUB ONLY **WORKS** IF PEOPLE **NEVER KNOW.**

OF COURSE.

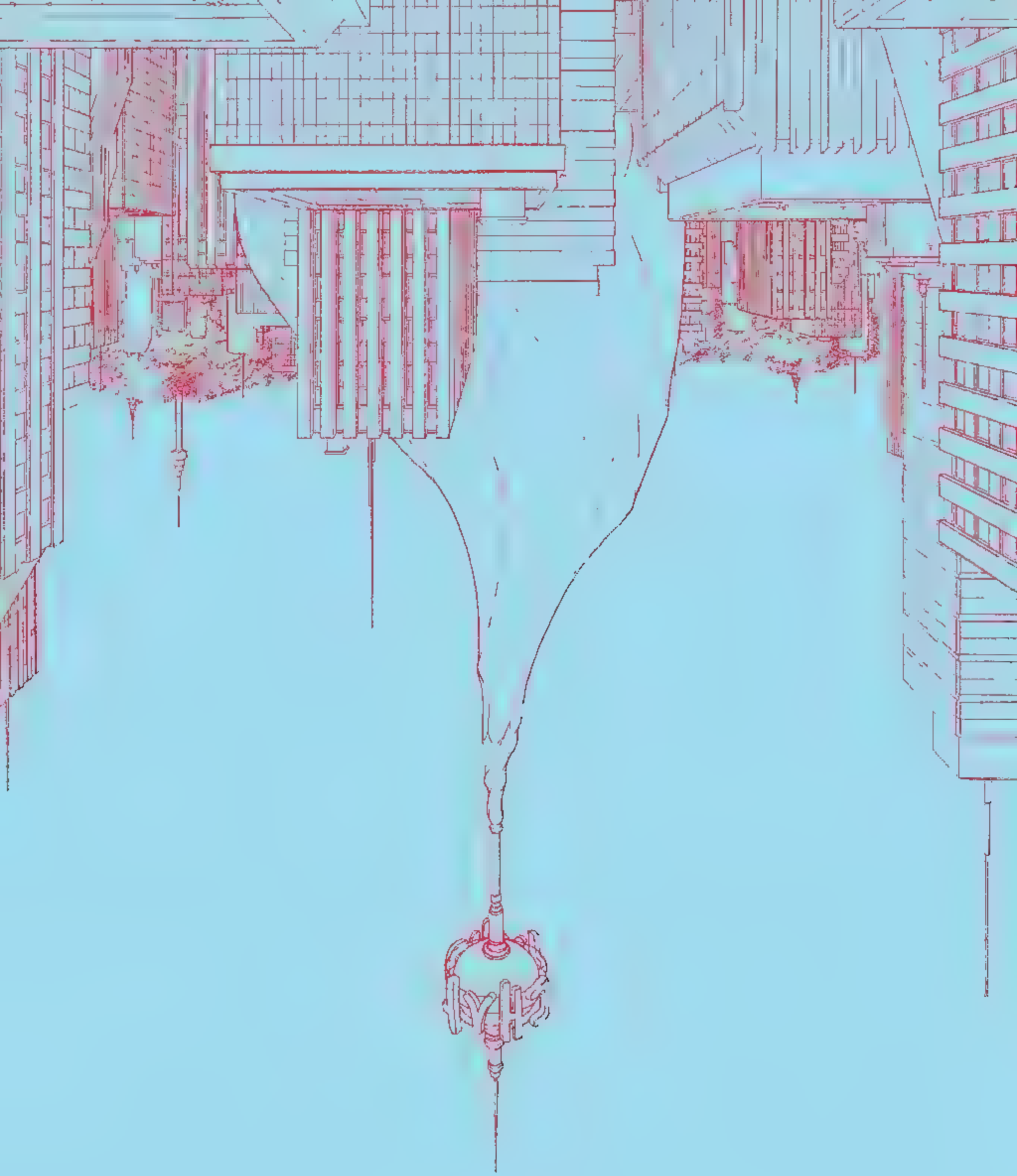
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE MR CHUNG GETS STARTED?

JUST THIS THING WITH YOUR EX AND ALL THESE **OTHER** SUPER PEOPLE SHE'S BEEN MAKING OUT THERE. THIS **RESCUE SQUAD** SHE'S PUT TOGETHER.

THEY WON'T BE A **PROBLEM,** WILL THEY?

CRAASH

NO, MISTER ANSEN. CHOON-HE WON'T BE A PROBLEM...



FIVE

MY NAME'S BOB TAYLOR, AND SIX WEEKS AGO I WAS *PISSING* IN MY *SHORTS.*

STILL AM, I GUESS.

FUCK!

AUSTRALIA! ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH, JUST TOOK A FEW LUMPS, BUT NOTHING I DIDN'T GET TWICE AS BAD IN MY **FOOTY** DAYS. CAN YOU BELIEVE INDIA'S HOGGING THE BLOODY **FLIGHT APP** AGAIN?

HE'S GOING TO NEED IT FOR ANOTHER **FEW HOURS**, BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOU HANDLING THE **SIBERIAN RESCUE**, SIR.

THIS CREW MIGHT BE **EXPERIENCED MOUNTAINEERS**, BUT THAT'S **THREE DAYS** THEY'VE BEEN OUT OF RADIO CONTACT AND IT'S **MINUS THIRTY-FIVE** OUT THERE.

DON'T WORRY, KIP. I'M NOT GOING HOME 'TIL I **FIND** THE BASTARDS. WHAT WAS THE CHARITY YOU SAID THEY WERE **HIKING** FOR AGAIN?

VEGAN AWARENESS, SIR.

CHRIST, WHY DID I **FUCKING ASK?**

I HAD LIVER SPOTS, CATARACTS, PROSTATE CANCER AND CHRONIC HYPERTENSION.

I COULDN'T **STAND UP** WITHOUT A WALKING FRAME AND MY KNEES WERE **SHOT TO HELL.**

BUT I WAS **SEVENTY-TWO,** FOR PETE'S SAKE. WHAT DO YOU **EXPECT?**

NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M **TWENTY-FIVE** AND HAVE **OVER FIFTY DIFFERENT SUPERPOWERS** AT MY FINGERTIPS.

HOW THE HELL DID **THAT** HAPPEN?

SO, YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR **SUPERHERO** TEAM, MISTER TAYLOR?

IS THIS A **PROBLEM,** MISS CHUNG?

YOUR AD SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER **WHAT** WE LOOKED LIKE NOW. **YOUNG** OR **OLD**. **FIT** OR A **FATTY**. YOU AND YOUR SCIENTISTS COULD TURN US INTO **SUPER-HEROES**.

WELL, I'D LIKE TO **UPGRADE** THIS SHITTY, OLD BODY AND VOLUNTEER MY SERVICES AS THE **AMBASSADOR** FOR **AUSTRALIA**.

Uh, I THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE MISREAD CHOON-HE'S **CONCERNS**, MISTER TAYLOR. THE AMBASSADORS ARE THE BEST YOUR COUNTRY HAS TO **OFFER**.

WE'RE TURNING YOU INTO SUPERHEROES FOR DOING SOMETHING **GOOD**.

A MAN CAN **CHANGE**.

NOT **THAT** MUCH. WE'VE GOT A LITTLE FOOTAGE OF YOU TALKING AT YOUR SON'S RALLY TO BE THE INDEPENDENT MP FOR QUEENSLAND LAST WEEK. DO I NEED TO RAISE THE VOLUME AND **EMBARRASS** YOU?

IS SHE **TAKING THE PISS**? I PLAYED RUGBY FOR **THE MAGGIES** FOR TEN YEARS! I WAS **DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

ACTUALLY, THIS IS WHAT **TROUBLES** US, SIR. YOUR ENTIRE CAREER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A LITANY OF **RACIST** AND **HOMOPHOBIC** **ATTACKS**.

OKAY, I CAN BE A LITTLE **OFF-COLOR** SOMETIMES, BUT I WAS JUST PLAYING TO THE **CROWD.** THE TRUTH IS I'M A **DIFFERENT GUY** SINCE I RETIRED, AND **EVEN MORE** SINCE MY WIFE PASSED AWAY.

I CAME HERE TO MAKE **AN OFFER** TO YOU GUYS.

WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY, I RECKON YOU'LL **CHANGE YOUR MINDS...**

HOW WE **DOING** OUT THERE, SWEETHEART?

A CLUSTER OF THERMAL SIGNATURES **TWO MILES WEST,** AUSTRALIA...

...EIGHT IN TOTAL AND TOO SMALL TO BE **BEARS.**

DOWNLOADING **SPEED, ENDURANCE** AND **TEMPERATURE CONTROL.** THEY'RE GOING TO NEED **SOMETHING** TO HEAT THEM UP.

IS THE **BLIZZARD** SLOWING YOU DOWN?

NAH, THE **FORCE FIELD'S** TAKING CARE OF IT. BY THE TIME IT HITS MY FACE, IT **FIZZLES** INTO **NOTHING.**

I CAN **SEE** THEM. THEY'RE **STILL ALIVE...**

"S-SERIOUSLY?"

YOU'RE **GAY?**

BENT AS A FUCKING **TWO-BOB NOTE,** MATE. I CHEATED ON MY WIFE OUR **ENTIRE MARRIAGE,** AND ALL MY BIG TALK WAS JUST A **COVER STORY.**

"I DOUBT THERE'S A **DUNNY** OR **SERVO** FROM **PERTH** TO **BRISBANE** I DIDN'T SHAG A **TRUCKER** IN."

I'M **DEVO** ABOUT MY LIES OR THE THINGS I SAID IN PUBLIC, BUT I'M ASKING YOU FOR A **SECOND GO.** TO BE THE GUY I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE **FIRST** TIME.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR **SON?** HE'S SPENT THIS **ENTIRE ELECTION** RAILING AGAINST THE EVILS OF **HOMOSEXUALITY.**

SO MAYBE THIS IS HIS **WAKEUP CALL.**

WHAT DO YOU **THINK?**

I ACTUALLY KIND OF **LIKE** THE IDEA OF SOMEONE CHANGING THEIR WAYS, BUT I'M AFRAID IT COMES WITH A **CONDITION,** MISTER TAYLOR...

...THIS IS ONE OCCASION WHERE YOUR IDENTITY MUST BE **PUBLIC**. PEOPLE NEED TO **HEAR** ABOUT YOUR LITTLE **CHANGE OF HEART**.

DONE.

PTOO

PUT 'ER **THERE**, MATE.

OY, VEGANS. **FRET NOT.** BIG BOB TAYLOR IS GOING TO **SAVE** YOUR SKINNY ASSES.

I'M FORMING AN IGLOO AROUND THEM **NOW** AND HEATING THEM UP TO GET SOME **COLOR** IN THEIR CHEEKS. YOU GOT OUR CO-ORDINATES FOR THE **TELEPORTER,** MISS PETROV?

NEGATIVE. WINDS HAVE PICKED UP AND A TELEPORT WOULD BE **UNSAFE.** YOU'RE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF FROM ANY NEW POWERS, BUT WE'LL TRY TO GET IT UP AGAIN IN A **SECOND.**

DON'T WORRY, SWEETHEART. ALL GOOD HERE. THE BOYS ARE WRAPPED UP **NICE AND WARM,** AND WE CAN SIT IT OUT 'TIL YOU'RE **BACK ONLINE...**

OH MY GOD!

FUCK.

MALAYSIAN JET WITH A HUNDRED SCREAMING PASSENGERS.

MAYBE EVEN MORE.

WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM?

VEGANS ARE GONERS.

NO WAY I CAN SAVE THEM AND THE PLANE AT THE SAME TIME.

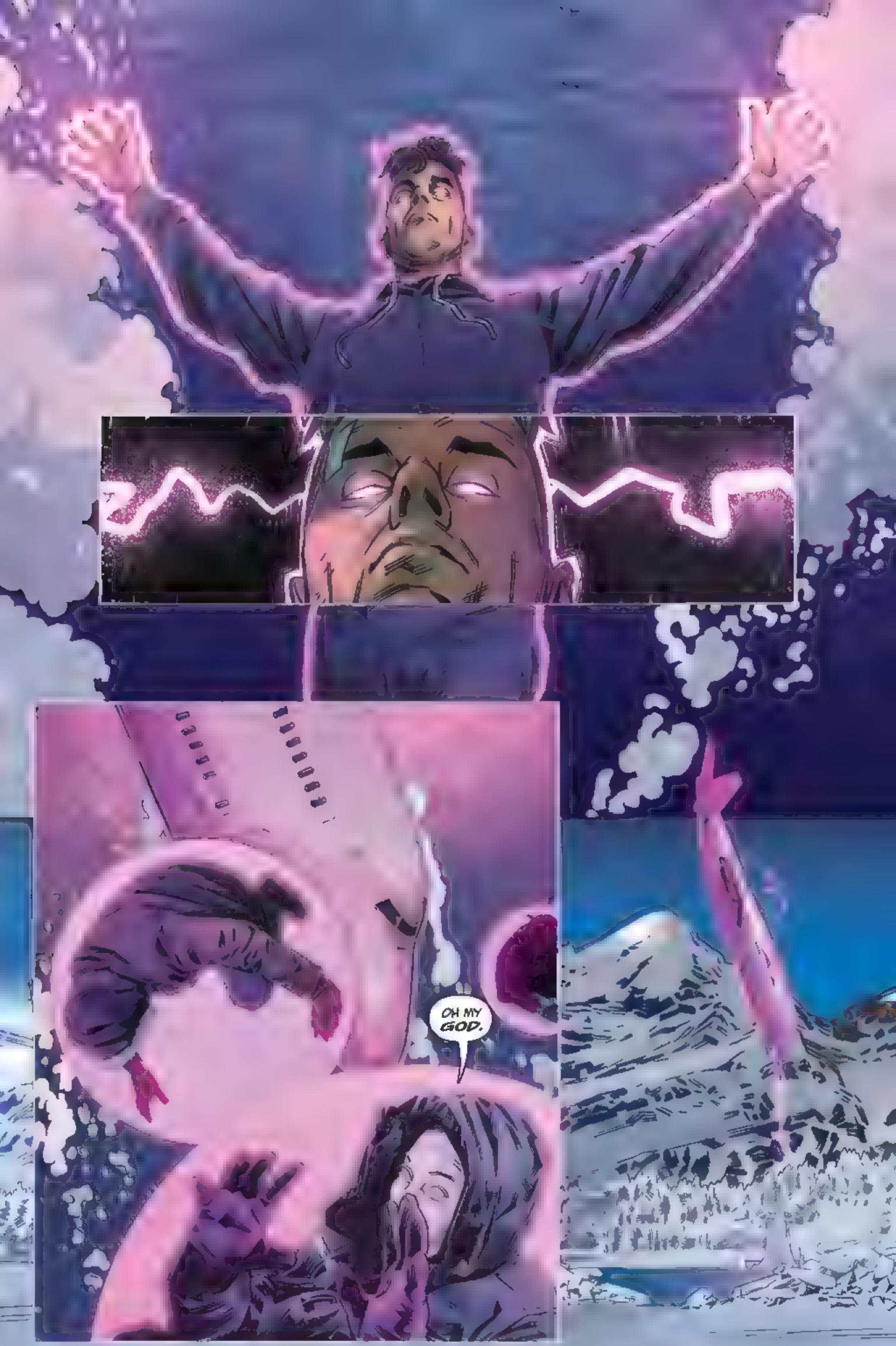
GOT TO GO FOR THE HIGHER NUMBER.

CHRIST, WHEN IS THE POWER-BANK BACK ONLINE?

NOT EVEN SLOWING IT DOWN HERE.

I...

WHAT THE HELL?


OH MY GOD.

OKAY, PAL. **YOUR** TURN. TURN THE TEMPERATURE UP AND LET'S GET **SOME HEAT** INTO THESE POOR SODS.

WHAT?

PASSENGER JET WITH A **FROZEN ENGINE,** BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD **YOUR OWN** WEE RESCUE GOING ON DOWN HERE AT THE **SAME TIME.**

NO, I MEAN WHO THE FUCK ARE **YOU?**

RIGHT, HERE'S THE DEAL: I SAVED YOUR **LIVES**, NOW YOU NEED TO DO **ME** A FAVOR. WHAT HAPPENED HAS TO STAY A SECRET, AND **CROCODILE DUNDEE** CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT.

WHY CAN'T THEY **TELL** ANYONE?

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE **ONLY** SUPER PEOPLE ON THE PLANET? THERE'S BASTARDS OUT THERE DOING **TERRIBLE THINGS** AND THEY'D **RIP ME APART** IF THEY EVER TRACKED ME DOWN.

THESE ARE THE **RICHEST MEN** IN THE **WORLD**, MY FRIEND, AND THEY'LL BE COMING AFTER YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS **VERY SOON.**

WHO **ARE** YOU?

JAMIE McPHAIL. LET'S JUST SAY I'M AN EARLY DRAFT OF **YOU.**

"THEY TOOK ME FROM AN ORPHANAGE AND MESSED AROUND WITH MY EVOLUTION TO A POINT WHERE THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A **NAME** FOR IT YET.

"I WAS MEANT TO BE PUT TO SLEEP OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO; BUT THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE JUST RELEASED ME INTO THE WILD AND I'VE BEEN LIVING ON THE STREETS **EVER SINCE.**"

I STILL GET TO HELP PEOPLE OUT HERE IN THE SHADOWS, BUT I CAN'T STAY IN **ONE PLACE** TOO LONG. I JUST HAVE TO GO BEFORE THEY **CATCH UP** WITH ME.

AUSTRALIA, THIS IS OKSANA PETROV BACK ONLINE...

...THE WEATHER'S CLEAR AND WE'RE GOOD TO GO AS SOON AS YOU WANT THAT **TELEPORT.**

"I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M A **LITTLE JEALOUS** WHEN I SEE YOU GUYS IN YOUR SUPERHERO SUITS.

"THAT'S WHAT THEY PROMISED **ME** WHEN I WAS WEE, AND I READ ALL THE COMICS AND WATCHED ALL THE VIDEOS, BUT A STROKE OF A PEN AND ALL MY **DREAMS** WERE UP IN **SMOKE.**"

SHIT.

WHERE THE HELL DID HE **GO?**

THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK:

WOULD YOU TELL YOUR DOG TO **SHUT UP**, PLEASE, SIR? HIS BARKING IS DRIVING ME **CRAZY**. I'D KILL IT MYSELF, BUT I'VE ALWAYS **LOVED** ANIMALS. I'VE GOT DOGS OF MY OWN **BACK HOME.**

WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY **GRAND-DAUGHTER**, YOU ANIMALS? WH-WHERE IS SHE?

HEADS OR **TAILS?**

WHAT?

JUST ANSWER THE **GODDAMN QUESTION**, MAN.

I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY YOUR **STUPID GAMES.**

CALL IT OR WE KILL YOU, OLD MAN.

OKAY, TAILS. GODDAMN TAILS...

AH, SHE LANDED HEADS.

JIN-SUNG CHUNG, YOU ARE SUCH A HAM.

...NOW WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ABOUT?

THUD

C'MON. LET'S GO SEE HOW BRINN'S **INITIATION** IS COMING ALONG.

WHAT'S **GOING ON,** BRINN? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HAVING **FUN.**

UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T **GET OFF** ON HURTING PEOPLE. I ONLY WANTED THESE POWERS SO I COULD **LIVE FOREVER** AND NEVER GO BACK TO THE **HOSPITAL.**

FOR A MAN WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER, YOU'RE GOING A FUNNY WAY **ABOUT** IT.

WHAT'S **THAT** SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WE DON'T DO THIS BECAUSE WE **ENJOY** IT, BRINN. WE KILL AS A **BONDING EXERCISE,** AND TO MAYBE HAVE A LITTLE **SHIT** ON EACH OTHER.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF. NO REPERCUSSIONS WHEN YOUR FRIENDS OWN THE INTERNET.

NOW, I WANT YOU TO TAKE YOUR BLOODING LIKE A MAN OR I'LL STOP YOUR HEART RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D GIVE YOU ALL THESE ABILITIES WITHOUT INCORPORATING A LITTLE FAIL-SAFE?

NOW DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.

P-PLEASE. I HAVE A FAMILY.

SIR, I AM SO SORRY...

HOLY SHIT.

THAT WAS **AWESOME**, BRINN. **WELL DONE**, MAN. YOU **MADE** YOUR FUCKING **BONES!**

I SEE YOUR WIFE'S ADDED ANOTHER SUPER TO THE **AMBASSADORS**, JIN-SUNG. DID YOU CATCH THE NEWS ABOUT THE **AUSTRALIAN ADDITION?**

NO **BIG DEAL**. THEY'LL ALL BE DEAD **SOON ENOUGH.**

I'VE FOUND MY LITTLE TRAITOR IN THEIR RANKS.

SIX

SOUTH KOREA, 5 YEARS AGO.

SCREWED OVER DOESN'T **BEGIN** TO DESCRIBE IT.

HE'S TAKEN THE **BUSINESS**, THE **MONEY** AND ALL MY **RESEARCH**. HE PLANS TO SELL SUPERPOWERS TO THE **RICHEST GUYS** IN THE **WORLD** WHILE I ROT IN HERE IN A **PRISON CELL**.

JIN-SUNG HAS COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY **RUINED** ME.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO **DO**, CHOON-HE?

WIN.

THE EMBASSY; NOW:

FIVE YEARS AGO; I WAS LYING IN A BUNK AND SHARING A **TOILET.** NOW I'M STANDING HERE IN THE **WORLD** OF MY **DREAMS** AND I'D NEVER HAVE DONE IT **WITHOUT** YOU, OKSANA.

YOU DID ALL THE **HARD WORK,** CHOON-HE.

"I JUST CARRIED OUT YOUR **INSTRUCTIONS.**"

YOU SEE THIS **AWARD?** THIS MEANS MORE TO ME THAN ALL THESE OTHER THINGS **PUT TOGETHER.**

I WAS **SO PROUD** WHEN THE PRINCIPAL GAVE ME THE SCIENCE PRIZE. OUR SCHOOL HAD THE COUNTRY'S **MOST GIFTED CHILDREN,** AND HERE I WAS ONLY **SIX YEARS OLD** AND BEATING ALL THOSE **BIGGER KIDS.**

JIN-SUNG WAS **SO ANGRY.** HE'D NEVER MET ANYONE AS SMART AS HE WAS AND DIDN'T SPEAK TO ME FOR AN **ENTIRE TERM.**

"I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN **THEN** WHAT AN ASSHOLE HE WAS; BUT I ASSUMED HE **MEANT** IT WHEN HE APOLOGIZED.

"I DIDN'T REALIZE HE'D JUST CALCULATED IT WAS BEST TO **KEEP ME CLOSE** AND PIGGYBACK ON ANY **BREAK-THROUGHS** I MADE.

"**SEVENTEEN** WHEN HE PROPOSED. **EIGHTEEN** WHEN WE GOT MARRIED.

"I THINK I WAS THE ONLY ONE SHOCKED WHEN HE **FRAMED ME** AND TOOK OFF WITH THE RICH OLD LADY WHO WAS **FUNDING** ALL OUR **RESEARCH.**

"UNTIL SHE TOOK THAT LITTLE WALK OFF A **MANHATTAN SKYSCRAPER.**"

HE SHOULD HAVE **KILLED ME TOO.** LEAVING ME TO ROT ONLY GAVE ME TIME TO **THINK.**

ALWAYS MY **STRONG SUIT.**

PARDON ME FOR **INTERRUPTING,** MISS CHUNG, BUT THERE'S A LEVEL ONE EMERGENCY IN **GYEONGJU.**

TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. I **KNOW.** I JUST PICKED IT UP ON **TEAM ALERTS.**

NOW LOOK AT US.

SUPER-HEROES.

CHOON-HE?

DOESN'T **MATTER.**

IT'LL **KEEP.**

GYEONGJU

COULD SOMEONE RUN THROUGH THE **PLAN** ONE MORE TIME? I THOUGHT WE WERE STOPPING A **NUCLEAR ACCIDENT,** BUT SOMEONE SAID IT'S A **TIDAL WAVE** NOW.

THE TIDAL WAVE WOULD **CAUSE** THE ACCIDENT, MEXICO. THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU **GIANT SIZE.** IF THIS PLACE IS FLOODED, THE **COOLING RODS** GET DISABLED AND WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER **FUKUSHIMA** ON OUR HANDS.

I'M STILL NOT GETTING WHY I HAVE TO BE **GIANT SIZE,** FRANCE.

BECAUSE YOU AND I CAN HOLD BACK THE **BULK** OF THE WAVE.

THE OTHERS CAN DOWNLOAD **FORCE FIELD, PLASMA POWERS** AND ANYTHING THEY CAN BUILD A **WALL** WITH, BUT WE'LL BE DOING ALL THE **HEAVY LIFTING.**

POWER DUPLICATION. THAT'S **PRETTY SMART.**

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ACCESS **TWO POWERS** FROM BASE AT THE **SAME TIME.** IF WE USE THESE SHIPS THEY HAD IN THE BAY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD A **BARRIER.**

CAN YOU **BELIEVE** THIS, BY THE WAY? SIX WEEKS AGO, I WAS WORKING IN A **SUPERMARKET.**

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I'M A **HOTEL RECEPTIONIST.** I THOUGHT THEY WOULD GO FOR **NASA GUYS** OR SOMETHING. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CHOSE PEOPLE LIKE **US.**

BECAUSE YOU'RE **GOOD** PEOPLE, FRANCE, BUT YOU NEED TO **STOP TALKING** AND START **GETTING READY** BECAUSE THAT WAVE IS COMING IN AT **FIVE HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR.**

GUYS, I'M SORRY. I ONLY JUST GOT THE MESSAGE. DOWNLOADING TEMPERATURE CONTROL TO SEE IF I CAN **FREEZE** THE WAVE OR MAYBE TURN THE WATER DROPLETS INTO **STEAM.**

WOW. WHERE DID YOU GET THE **FANCY CAR,** BRAZIL?

TEAM CREDIT CARD.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD **USE** IT FOR STUFF LIKE THAT.

SERIOUSLY. YOU GUYS NEED TO DOWNLOAD ***PILOT SKILLS*** FROM THE POWER BANK AND GET YOURSELVES ONE OF ***THESE***.

WHAT? SHE NEVER SAID THERE WAS A ***LIMIT*** ON THE CARDS.

OKAY, HOW THE HELL ARE PEOPLE STILL **WANDERING AROUND?** I THOUGHT THE POLICE **EVACUATED** THE **AREA.**

DON'T WORRY. DOWNLOADING **MACH NINE.** I'LL HAVE THEM OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU **KNOW** IT, KOREA.

WHAT'S THE **MATTER?**

I CAN'T **LIFT** THEM. THEY'RE **TOO HEAVY.**

I NEVER ACTUALLY **THOUGHT** OF THIS, BUT THEY'RE STILL **TWICE MY SIZE.**

MEXICO'S USING **STRENGTH** UP HERE. WHY DON'T YOU **TELEPORT** THEM? JUST HAVE THEM HOLD HANDS SO THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED, AND BASE CAN MOVE YOU ANYWHERE YOU **WANT.**

IT'S **FINE.** JUST GET THEM **BEHIND** US. THE **WAVE'S** COMING IN AND WE DON'T HAVE **TIME.**

IS EVERYBODY **READY?**

OH **SHIT.** THIS IS **MENTAL.** THIS IS **NEVER** GOING TO WORK.

HERE WE GO!

FUCK.

BASE TO **AMBASSADORS**: WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE **GROUND**? WE'RE WATCHING ALL THIS ON THE **SATELLITE BOARD**, AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU **BROKE IT UP**. CAN YOU **CONFIRM**?

OH MY GOD.

WE **DID IT**! THE WAVE HAS BEEN **DISPERSED** AND EVERYONE'S **OKAY**.

I'M **SOAKING WET** AND THERE'S SOME **DAMAGE** AROUND THE **EDGES**, BUT OUR FIRST MISSION HAS BEEN A **SUCCESS**.

CONTROL?

HAS ANYONE ELSE STILL GOT A **LINK**, BECAUSE ALL I'M GETTING FROM ANTARCTICA IS **STATIC**?

SHIT!

THAT'S ACTUALLY SCREAMS.

JIN-SUNG?

HELLO, WIFE. ARE YOU READY TO BE FUCKED OVER AGAIN? BECAUSE I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT.

WH-WHAT?

I'M AFRAID MY RESEARCH DIDN'T GO AS BADLY AS I PRETENDED. I JUST SHARED THE BENEFITS WITH A VERY SELECT GROUP.

YOU WANTED TO BUILD AN **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE SERVICE.** I WANTED **BILLIONS** FROM EVERY RICH GUY I **UPGRADED.**

WE'RE KIND OF THE WORLD'S **MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUB** AND WE'RE NOT REALLY KEEN ON **COMPETITION.** YOU DON'T STAY ELITE IF **ANYONE** CAN JOIN.

FUCK **YOU** AND YOUR STUPID **THIRD-RATE POWERS,** BRAZIL.

WHAT'S **WRONG?** HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING YOUR BASE AT THE **SOUTH POLE?** THAT'S BECAUSE WE DROPPED AN **OIL RIG** ON THEM.

YOU'RE STUCK WITH THE ABILITIES YOU **DOWNLOADED ALREADY,** AND I BELIEVE THAT MEANS A MAXIMUM OF **THREE.**

YOU CREATED THAT TIDAL WAVE JUST TO GET US ALL TOGETHER.

BEHOLD, THE GENIUS.

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE BANK? IT'S HIDDEN UNDER A HOLOGRAM.

ACTUALLY, THAT WAS HARDER THAN I EXPECTED. I TRIED TO BUY OFF EACH OF YOUR AMBASSADORS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CHOSE VERY WISELY. YOUR ASSISTANT, ON THE OTHER HAND...

OH NO.

DON'T GET ALL SANCTIMONIOUS WITH ME, YOU FUCKING WITCH. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE ME SUPERPOWERS WHEN WE STARTED THIS, BUT YOU GAVE THEM TO PEOPLE YOU'D NEVER EVEN MET.

OKSANA'S HAD POLIO SINCE SHE WAS FOUR YEARS OLD. HOW COULD YOU CHOOSE STRANGERS OVER A FRIEND?

JIN-SUNG SAID HE'LL MAKE ME FASTER THAN A RACING CAR. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? HEAT VISION. SUPER-BREATH. I'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO SHRINK.

HE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU **ANY-THING,** YOU IDIOT. HE'S **USING** YOU LIKE HE USES **EVERYONE.**

THAT'S NOT FAIR. I'M MORE THAN **HAPPY** TO HELP HER **SHRINK.**

BRINN, WOULD YOU MAKE MISS PETROV **REALLY, REALLY SMALL?** LIKE THE SIZE OF A **COMMA?**

I--I--I DON'T **WANT** TO, JIN-SUNG. **PLEASE...**

SHRINK **OKSANA** OR YOU KNOW WHAT FUCKING **HAPPENS,** BRINN.

NOW.

I'M SORRY...

YOU BASTARD!

OH, LOOK AT **YOU,** FROZEN IN THE AIR. THAT'S ONE OF MY **FIFTY-EIGHT SUPERPOWERS,** YOU KNOW. FREEZING PEOPLE WHERE THEY **STAND.**

HERE'S **ANOTHER** ONE.

WHAT ABOUT **THE REST** OF YOU WRETCHES? ARE YOU REALLY THE BEST SHE COULD **FIND** IN **EACH COUNTRY?**

A **SCHOOLBOY?** A **SHOP ASSISTANT?** A WOMAN WHO **BOOKS ROOMS** IN SOME **LOW-RENT FRENCH HOTEL?**

COME ON! GIVE US A LITTLE SPORT BEFORE WE BURY YOU!

HAHAHA. THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

THEY'RE VERY **ENTHUSIASTIC**, BUT THEY JUST DON'T HAVE THE **NUMBERS**. MY BOYS ARE **KILLERS** AND THEY'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR **YEARS**.

Y-YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR **MIND**. YOU'LL GO TO **JAIL** WHEN PEOPLE SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE!

WHO'S GOING TO **SEE** IT? ARLO CREATED THE BIGGEST SEARCH ENGINE ON THE **WEB**. DEXTER OWNS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST **SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM**.

HUDSON AND BEAR OWN ALL THE **NEWS-PAPERS** AND HALF THE PLANET'S **TELEVISION STATIONS**.

THIS IS THE WAY IT'S **ALWAYS BEEN**, DARLING. THE RICH **DON'T LOSE** AND SUPERPOWERS ARE THEIR **NEW ADVANTAGE**.

MAN, THEY'RE HARD TO KILL WITH THESE **ELECTRO-MAGNETIC AURAS**.

JUST KEEP **HITTING**, ARLO. EVERYTHING BREAKS **EVENTUALLY**.

SPOKEN LIKE A TOTAL CUNT.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

JAMIE MCPHAIL. SCOTTISH GUY.

NOW GET THE FUCK AWAY FROM THAT LASSIE!

NOBODY GETS TO BLINDSIDE **ME** TWICE. THIS ISN'T A **MARVEL MOVIE.** YOU DON'T GET TO WIN JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE **NICE.**

THERE'S **EIGHT** OF YOU AND OVER **FORTY** OF US.

THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO **CRUCIFY** YOU.

WAIT A SECOND. **I** KNOW HIM. THIS IS THE ORPHAN FROM THE **BONZO PROJECT.** THE BOY HENRI TROYAT SPLICED WITH **SUPERHUMAN DNA.**

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN **LOOKING** FOR YOU, MAN? THERE'S SECRETS IN YOU EVEN **I'VE** NEVER FIGURED OUT.

OH AND DON'T TRY DUPLICATING MY **POWERS,** MISS HOTEL RECEPTIONIST. I CAN **FEEL** YOU PROBING AROUND IN THERE, BUT YOU CAN ONLY **COPY** ONE AT A TIME.

I'M THE **SMARTEST MAN ALIVE** AND I DON'T TAKE **CHANCES.** I NEVER START A **FIGHT** UNLESS I KNOW I'M GOING TO **WIN.**

SHIT.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

MY FUCKING HEAD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'VE DUPLICATED THE POWER YOU KEPT ON STANDBY FOR ANY CLIENTS WHO GOT A LITTLE SHITTY WITH YOU.

OH MY GOD.

I'VE GIVEN THEM ALL ANEURYSMS, MISTER CHUNG. CLOSED THEM DOWN WITH YOUR OWN PERSONAL INSURANCE...

...AND THAT MEANS YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

YOU THINK I GIVE A SHIT?

ALL THE LITTLE RICH BOYS WERE JUST TO HELP ME FUND MY WORK! I'VE SPENT YEARS BUILDING THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE BODY! NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!

WANT TO PUT THAT TO THE TEST?

OH, CHOON-HE. WASN'T PRISON BAD ENOUGH?

I DO THE HURTING. YOU DO THE CRYING. THAT'S THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS WORKED AND I'M ONLY GOING TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL AGAIN.

I THINK YOU FORGET WHO'S THE BOSS IN THIS RELATIONSHIP...

JESUS FUCKING CHRIST ON A BIKE!

I THINK YOU FORGET WHO WON THAT SCIENCE PRIZE.

WOW. ARE YOU OKAY?

I--I THINK SO. I DIDN'T EVEN MEAN TO DO THAT.

WHEN HE SAID HE WAS INDESTRUCTIBLE NOW, I THOUGHT HE ACTUALLY MEANT IT...

...I ONLY WANTED TO KNOCK HIM OUT.

CALLING ALL AMBASSADORS! THIS IS BASE CONTROL IN ANTARCTICA! DO YOU READ ME?

WE'VE LOST ALL **VISUALS** IN AN AERIAL ATTACK AND ARE TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH **COMMS.** CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S **GOING ON?**

TO BE HONEST, I'M **NOT SURE...**

...I THINK THEY CALL IT **CLOSURE.**

LAUNCH PARTY; THE EMBASSY.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I REALLY FEEL LIKE AN ABSOLUTE *DICKHEAD* STANDING HERE.

YOU'VE WAITED YOUR ***ENTIRE LIFE*** TO BE A SUPER-HERO, JAMIE. THIS IS NO TIME TO GET SHY ABOUT WEARING ***LATEX PANTS.***

FUCK, I DON'T MIND WEARING THE ***SUPER-SUIT.*** IT'S THE ***UNION JACK*** THAT'S PISSING ME OFF.

I'M A ***SCOTTISH NATIONALIST.*** I BELIEVE SCOTLAND SHOULD BE AN ***INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.*** I CAN'T GO ABOUT CALLING MYSELF ***GREAT BRIT.***

LOOK, WE'RE ***ALL*** DRESSED LIKE WANKERS, MATE. JUST THINK ABOUT ALL THE SHEILAS YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUMPING AND ***GET OVER*** YOURSELF.

VOGLIO CHE SAPPIATE CHE IL MIO TEAM ED IO CI SAREMO OGNI VOLTA CHE AVRETE ***BISOGNO*** DI NOI, MIEI FAN ADORANTI. GLI AMBASSADORS SONO UNA VERA UNITÀ DI SOCCORSO ***INTERNAZIONALE*** E SIAMO AL SERVIZIO ***DELL'UMANITÀ INTERA.****

*I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY TEAM AND I ARE HERE WHENEVER YOU ***NEED*** US, MY ADORING FANS. THE AMBASSADORS ARE A TRULY ***INTERNATIONAL*** RESCUE FORCE AND WE'RE HERE IN THE SERVICE OF ***ALL MANKIND.***

WHO THE HELL IS THIS **ITALIAN** GUY?

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. WORD IS HE'S A **MODEL, INFLUENCER** AND **YOUTUBER** WHO SAVED A TRUCK DRIVER WHEN HE WAS HANGING OVER THE EDGE OF A **CLIFF.**

WHAT'S HE DOING POSING FOR ALL THE **TEAM PICTURES?** HE LITERALLY HASN'T DONE A **SINGLE THING.**

THIS IS WHAT THEY DO AT FOOTBALL **TOO,** MAN. HANGING AROUND THE GOALS AND **POACHING** ALL THE TIME.

GUYS, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET **SHONA RUNGA.** SHE'S GOING TO BE OUR **NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR** AND OUR FIRST **WHEELCHAIR USER.**

WELL, HOPEFULLY THE SUPER-SUIT MEANS I CAN JOIN YOU ON THE RESCUES **TOO,** BUT I HAVE TO SAY I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT ALL THE **VIOLENCE.**

I GOT PICKED BECAUSE CHOON-HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE **CLIMATE PROTESTS** I ORGANIZED, AND SHE WANTED ME TO HEAD UP THE TEAM'S **ECO-INITIATIVE.**

CHICO BLANCO. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR. BUT I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHY THEY **PICKED** ME FOR THIS THING.

UH, DAD. CAN I **TALK** TO YOU FOR A SECOND?

WELL, THIS IS A TURN-UP FOR THE BOOKS! I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T SPEAKING TO ME ANYMORE, DAVE.

I GUESS I HAD A LITTLE THINK ABOUT MY BEHAVIOR, AND I REALIZED WHAT MATTERS MOST IS YOU BEING HAPPY, POPS.

I MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE, BUT YOU'RE STILL MY DAD, AND IT'S BLOODY BRAVE IF THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE YOU AND HOW PROUD WE ARE OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING OUT THERE.

DAVE, LISTEN. C'MERE A SECOND...

I'M NOT ACTUALLY GAY, MATE. IT'S ALL A FUCKING SCAM...

...I WAS SEVENTY-TWO AND COULD BARELY WALK. NOW I FEEL GREAT AND EVEN HAVE SUPERPOWERS. I JUST TOLD THESE LEFTIE ARSE-HOLES WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR.

WHAT?

HOW'S IT **GOING** THERE, SWEETHEART?

PISS OFF.

THERE WE GO. **FLAG PROBLEM SOLVED.**

THIS IS EVEN WORSE THAN BEING IN THE **FIGHTS**, JEAN-LUC. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I **HATE** HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN.

YOU LOOK **AMAZING**, MAMAN, AND I'M RIGHT HERE **BESIDE** YOU.

I'LL ALWAYS BE FINE IF I HAVE MY LITTLE **SIDEKICK.**

NEW RECRUIT

HEY, NEIGHBOR. GREAT TO MEET YOU.

DID YOU HEAR THERE'S A **KIWI** ON THE TEAM NOW?

OH, FOR **FUCK'S** SAKE...

MRS. CHUNG, I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS ENORMOUS DONATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SICK CHILDREN'S FUND. THAT REALLY WAS AN INCREDIBLE **GESTURE.**

ACTUALLY, THAT WAS MY **EX-HUSBAND'S** FORTUNE, MADAM SECRETARY. PLUS DONATIONS FROM ALL THE **TECH COMPANIES** ASKING US TO KEEP THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR **LATE FOUNDERS** QUIET.

WELL, WHAT YOU'VE BUILT IS TRULY **ADMIRABLE.** AN INTERNATIONAL RELIEF TEAM COMMITTED TO **PEACE** AND WITH NO AFFILIATION TO ANY **NATION STATE.**

WE'RE VERY PROUD TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU AND DELIGHTED TO HEAR YOU'RE EXPANDING YOUR **AMBASSADOR PROGRAM** INTO PAKISTAN, JAPAN AND **OTHER** COUNTRIES **TOO.**

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'VE BEEN TALKING TO OUR **DIVERSITY DEPARTMENT** AND I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT **REPRESENTATION** ON THE TEAM AS IT STANDS RIGHT NOW...

...DO YOU THINK WE NEED A **TOKEN AMERICAN?**

END OF VOLUME ONE

BIOGRAPHIES

MARK MILLAR

MARK MILLAR is a NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author, Hollywood producer, and now president of his own division at Netflix after selling his publishing company to the world's biggest streamer in 2017. He also signed on to exclusively create new comics, TV series, and movies in-house as a senior executive. Adaptations of JUPITER'S LEGACY and a Japanese anime of SUPER CROOKS have already been released. THE MAGIC ORDER, REBORN, SHARKEY THE BOUNTY HUNTER, PRODIGY, KING OF SPIES, EMPRESS, MPH, HUCK and a live-action SUPER CROOKS are being put together now. AMERICAN JESUS (adapted as THE CHOSEN ONE) will be released in 2023.

Previously, Mark worked at Marvel comics where he created THE ULTIMATES, which was selected by TIME MAGAZINE as the comic book of the decade, and described by screenwriter Zak Penn as his major inspiration for THE AVENGERS movie. Millar also created WOLVERINE: OLD MAN LOGAN and MARVEL CIVIL WAR. CIVIL WAR was the basis of the third Captain America movie, and OLD MAN LOGAN was the inspiration for Fox's LOGAN.

CIVIL WAR remains Marvel's biggest-selling graphic novel of all time and his seminal SUPERMAN: RED SON the highest-selling Superman graphic novel in history. In 2021, RED SON was also released as an animated feature.

Mark has been an executive producer on all adaptations of his books, and worked as a creative consultant to Fox Studios on their Marvel slate of movies.

His much-anticipated autobiography, THE WAY OF THE MILLAR, will be published next year.

FRANK QUITELY

FRANK QUITELY is best known for his work on THE AUTHORITY, NEW-X-MEN, WE3, ALL STAR SUPERMAN, and JUPITER'S LEGACY.

He's currently working on various projects: writing, designing, and illustrating; exploring storytelling in different media; and creating new comics.

KARL KERSCHL

KARL KERSCHL is the award-winning illustrator of GOTHAM ACADEMY, ISOLA, and the critically acclaimed webcomic THE ABOMINABLE CHARLES CHRISTOPHER. He's been making comics for nearly thirty years and likes birds, motorcycles, and giant robots, in no particular order. He lives in Montréal, Canada and the fact that there's no Canadian AMBASSADOR has not gone unnoticed. >:(

TRAVIS CHAREST

TRAVIS CHAREST (born 1969) is a Canadian artist known for his work on such comics as DARKSTARS, WILDC.A.T.S, WILDC.A.T.S/X-MEN: THE GOLDEN AGE, THE METABARONS and SPACEGIRL.

He is known for his detailed line work and is a popular cover artist for various publishers including Marvel, DC and Image.

Charest was born in the small Canadian town of Leduc, Alberta. He believes that his mother and sister were both artistically skilled and attributes his early childhood interest in drawing to them.

His earliest exposure to genre illustration came through HEAVY METAL, which his uncle collected. In 1992 he got his first paid work, when DC Comics hired him to provide the art for a Flash story in SHOWCASE '93 #3 (March 1993). He followed that initial Flash story with the FLASH ANNUAL #5 (August 1992).

He later became the regular artist on DARKSTARS, illustrating issues 4 - 7. He also produced cover work for other

DC titles such as **THE OUTSIDERS**, **BATMAN**, and **DETECTIVE COMICS**.

Charest then worked with Wildstorm Productions (1995), he illustrated **WILDC.A.T.S** during the runs of writers James Robinson and Alan Moore. In 1999 Charest moved to Paris, where he worked on the graphic novel **WEAPONS OF THE METABARON** with Alejandro Jodorowsky for French publisher Les Humanoïdes.

In 2002 Charest re-settled in California where he now lives with his wife and daughter.

OLIVIER COIPEL

OLIVIER COIPEL is a French comic book artist who started on **LEGION OF SUPER HEROES** at DC comics. He then moved on to Marvel, and has been producing work for Marvel comics since then.

He has worked on books such as **THE AVENGERS** with Geoff Johns, a **NEW AVENGERS/X-MEN** crossover limited series, and **HOUSE OF M** with Brian Bendis. He also teamed up with writer J. Michael Straczynski on the critically acclaimed book **THOR**, where Coipel created and designed the new look of the God of Thunder.

He then left the series to work on different projects, such as the Marvel Comics event series **SIEGE**, the re-launch of **THE MIGHTY THOR** with Matt Fraction, the **X-MEN** series, **AVENGERS VS X-MEN**, the **SPIDER-VERSE** mini series, **UNWORTHY THOR**, and to be the cover artist on **BATMAN**, among other series.

MATTEO BUFFAGNI

MATTEO BUFFAGNI was born in 1984 in Parma, Italy. He studied at the art institute of his city, graduating in 2003, and then deepened his studies at the International School of Comics in Florence.

In 2006 he began working as an illustrator on schoolbooks for children and as a graphic designer / cartoonist producing various storyboards for advertising agencies.

From 2008 to 2010 he designed the two volumes of the French miniseries **VESTIGES**, and from 2009 to 2016 he taught in the International School of Comics in Reggio Emilia, leading the Dynamic Anatomy lessons.

Since March 2011 he's collaborated with the Marvel publishing house on comics including **DAKEN: DARK WOLVERINE**, **X-23 VS DAKEN**, **CAPTAIN AMERICA & HAWKEYE**, **THE PUNISHER**, **ASTONISHING X-MEN**, **DEADPOOL** and **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE**.

His drawings at Marvel / Panini also include **ULTIMATE COMICS IRON MAN: DEMON IN THE ARMOUR**, **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, **DAREDEVIL**, **X-MEN BLUE**, **HUNT FOR WOLVERINE: WEAPON LOST**, **ASGARDIAN OF THE GALAXY**, **STAR WARS: AGE OF REBELLION LANDO CALRISSIAN** and **EMPYRE: X-MEN**.

In Italy in 2012 he joined the team for the **DIABOLIK** series and since 2014 has been the cover artist.

THE AMBASSADORS is Matteo's second collaboration with Millarworld, the first being **PRODIGY: THE ICARUS SOCIETY**.

MATTEO SCALERA

MATTEO SCALERA was born in Parma, Italy in October 1982.

His professional career started in 2008, with the publication of **HYPERKINETIC**, a four-issues series by Image Comics. Since then, he's worked on **INCORRUPTIBLE**, **IRREDEEMABLE**, **VALEN THE OUTCAST** (Boom! Studios), **DEADPOOL**, **SECRET AVENGERS**, **INDESTRUCTIBLE HULK** (Marvel), **BATMAN, RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS**, **BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT PRESENTS: HARLEY QUINN** (DC Comics), **DEAD BODY ROAD** (Skybound), **BLACK SCIENCE** (Image Comics) and **SPACE BANDITS**, **KING OF SPIES** (Netflix/Image Comics).

MICHELE ASSARASAKORN

MICHELE ASSARASAKORN is a comic book colourist and creator based in Vancouver, Canada.

She mostly specializes in colouring high-fantasy comics including Image comic's **ISOLA** and IDW's **THE HUNGER** and **THE DUSK** series, but has also worked with mainstream titles at DC, Marvel and Dark Horse and more.

She now spends most of her time drawing her middle grade comic book series for Penguin Random House, called **PAWS**.

DAVE STEWART

DAVE has colored comics for over 20 years.

His work has included HELLBOY, BPRD, NEW FRONTIER, BATWOMAN, BLACK HAMMER and SHAOLIN COWBOY.

He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and three black cats.

LEE LOUGHRIDGE

LEE LOUGHRIDGE is a human man, despite his ever-depleting testosterone, who has been working in the comics industry for nearly 30 years. He has worked on hundreds of titles for virtually every company in the business. Here is a comic database link (https://www.comics.org/searchNew/?q=lee%20loughridge) to rule out hyperbole.

SARAH UNWIN

Over the last 10 years, SARAH has worked in film production on titles including AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON, FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM, TOMB RAIDER, POKÉMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU and THE MIDNIGHT SKY.

In 2022, she moved in-house at Netflix into the Millarworld Division as Editorial Production Manager to focus on the publishing of their wide variety of books.

GIOVANNA NIRO

GIOVANNA NIRO is a comic book colorist since 2006. Over the years, she has worked for Italian, American and French publishing companies: Sergio Bonelli Editore, Panini Comics, IDW Publishing, Image, Boom!Studios, Awa Studios and Futuropolis. Among the comics she has colored: ORPHANS, DYLAN DOG, THE CROW, GRENDEL, KENTUCKY, BATMAN: THE WORLD (2021).

For Mark Millar, she has colored titles including CHRONONAUTS: FUTURESHOCK (illustrated by Eric Canete), KING OF SPIES (illustrated by Matteo Scalera), NEMESIS RELOADED (illustrated by Jorge Jiménez) and she is currently working on THE MAGIC ORDER VOL 4 (illustrated by Dike Ruan) and the forthcoming BIG GAME (illustrated by Pepe Larraz).

She lives and works in Rome.

CLEM ROBINS

Since 1977, CLEM ROBINS has done lettering for DC, Marvel, Image, Dark Horse, and pretty much everybody else. His current projects include MISS TRUESDALE AND THE FALL OF HYPERBOREA, Keanu Reeves' miniseries BRZRKR, and everything associated with HELLBOY.

His 2002 book THE ART OF FIGURE DRAWING was published by North Light Books, and has since been translated into Spanish, French, Italian, German and Chinese. From 1998 through 2007 he taught figure drawing and human anatomy at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

His paintings and drawings are in the Eisele Gallery of Fine Art in Cincinnati, and in the permanent collection of the Cincinnati Art Museum. If you're curious, you can see them at www.clemrobins.com.

MELINA MIKULIC

MELINA is a well-known graphic designer at Croatia's comic scene: she designed many editions for all leading Croatian comic publishers and branched out into illustration, web and UI design.

She came on board the Millar team in 2015 and has stayed since then, working design and production on many of Millar's projects.

Melina lives happily in Rijeka, the rainiest city in Croatia.

THE MILLARWORLD TITLES READING ORDER

START HERE

WANTED

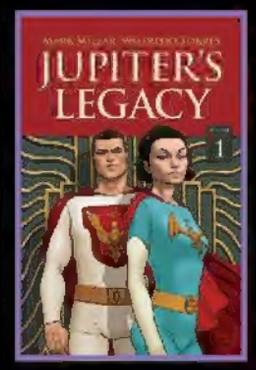
AMERICAN JESUS 1-3

KICK-ASS 1-4

SUPERIOR

KINGSMAN 1-2

SUPERCROOKS



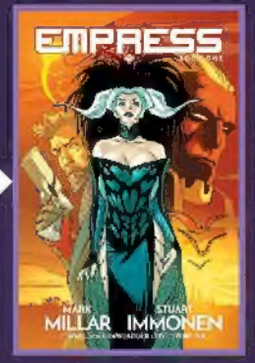
JUPITER'S LEGACY 1-5

CHRONONAUTS 1-2

MPH

STARLIGHT

HIT-GIRL 1-6

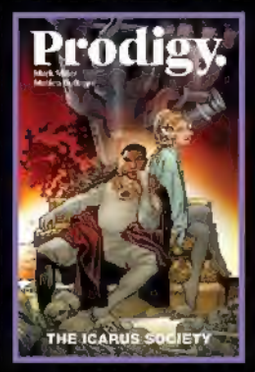


EMPRESS

HUCK

REBORN

THE MAGIC ORDER 1-4



PRODIGY 1-2

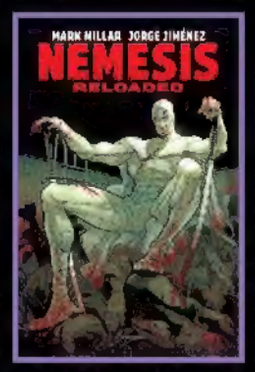
SHARKEY THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SPACE BANDITS

NIGHT CLUB

KING OF SPIES

THE AMBASSADORS



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